

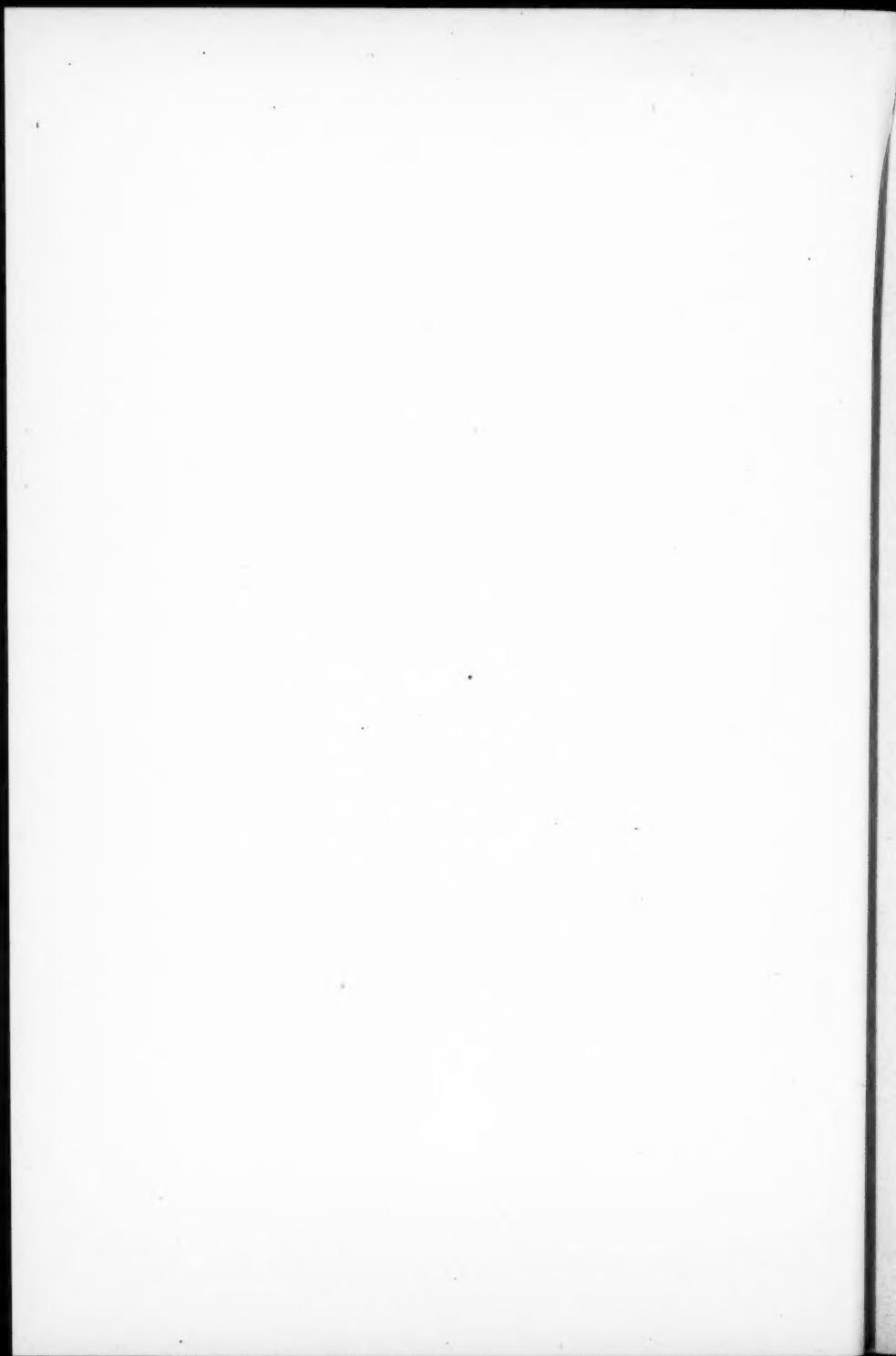
PROCEEDINGS
of the AMERICAN
FEDERATION
OF LABOR

1897 .. 1898

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1897

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Seventeenth Annual Convention

OF THE

American Federation
of Labor

HELD AT

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
December 13th to 21st, Inclusive
1897

PUBLISHED BY DIRECTION
O. A. F. OF L.

OFFICERS
OF THE
American Federation of Labor

PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL GOMPERS, Washington, D. C.

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SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT.

JAMES DUNCAN, Drawer 118, Baltimore, Md.

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT.

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TREASURER.

JOHN B. LENNON, Bloomington, Ill.

SECRETARY.

FRANK MORRISON, Washington, D. C.

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, A struggle is going on in all the nations of the civilized world between the oppressors and the oppressed of all countries, a struggle between the capitalist and the laborer, which grows in intensity from year to year, and will work disastrous results to the toiling millions if they are not combined for mutual protection and benefit;

It, therefore, behooves the representatives of the Trade and Labor Unions of America, in convention assembled, to adopt such measures and disseminate such principles among the mechanics and laborers of our country as will permanently unite them to secure the recognition of the rights to which they are justly entitled.

We, therefore, declare ourselves in favor of the formation of a thorough Federation, embracing every Trade and Labor Organization in America, organized under the trade-union system.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This association shall be known as "The American Federation of Labor," and shall consist of such Trade and Labor Unions as shall conform to its rules and regulations.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS.

Section 1. The objects of this Federation shall be the encouragement and formation of local Trade and Labor Unions, and the closer federation of such societies through the organization of Central Trade and Labor Unions in every city, and the further combination of such bodies, into State, Territorial, or Provincial organizations, to secure legislation in the interest of the working masses.

Sec. 2. The establishment of National and International Trade Unions, based upon a strict recognition of the autonomy of each trade, and the promotion and advancement of such bodies.

Sec. 3. An American Federation of all National and International Trade Unions to aid and assist each other to aid and encourage the sale of union-label goods, and to secure national legislation in the interest of the working people, and influence public opinion, by peaceful and legal methods, in favor of organized labor.

Sec. 4. To aid and encourage the labor press of America.

ARTICLE III.—CONVENTION.

Sec. 1. The convention of the Federation shall meet annually at 10 a.m., on the second Monday in December, at such place as the

delegates have selected at the preceding convention.

Sec. 2. At the opening of the convention the President shall take the chair and call the convention to order, and preside during its sessions.

Sec. 3. The following committees, consisting of five members each, shall be appointed by the President: First, Rules and Order of Business; second, Report of President; third, Report of Executive Council; fourth, Report of Secretary; fifth, Resolutions; sixth, Laws; seventh, Organization; eighth, Labels and Boycotts; ninth, Grievances; tenth, Local or Federated Bodies.

Sec. 4. The President shall direct the chief executive officers of three National or International Unions, at least ten days previous to the holding of the Annual Convention, to appoint one delegate each from their respective delegations-elect, who shall compose an Auditing Committee. This committee shall meet at the place for holding the convention three days prior to the convention, and they shall audit the accounts of the Federation for the preceding twelve months, and report upon credentials immediately upon the opening of the convention. The expense of said committee shall be paid out of the funds of the Federation.

Sec. 5. Resolutions of any character, or propositions for changes in this Constitution, intended for consideration by the convention, shall be sent to the Secretary of the American Federation of Labor at least two weeks previous to the date of the convention. The Secretary shall have the same compiled and printed in the programme of business and mailed to each delegate-elect and to the executive officer of each affiliated organization, and no resolution or constitutional provision shall be considered, unless printed in the programme, without a two-thirds vote of the convention.

Sec. 6. The report of the Grievance Committee shall be considered in executive session.

Sec. 7. None other than members of a bona fide trade-union shall be permitted to address the convention or read papers therein, except by a two-thirds vote of the convention.

Sec. 8. Party politics, whether they be democratic, republican, socialistic, populist, prohibition, or any other, shall have no place in the conventions of the American Federation of Labor.

ARTICLE IV.—REPRESENTATION.

Section 1. The basis of representation in the convention shall be: From National or International Unions for less than four thousand members, one delegate; four thousand or more, two delegates; eight thousand or more, three delegates; sixteen thousand or more, four delegates; thirty-two thousand or more, five del-

egates, and so on; and from Central Bodies and State Federations, and from Local Unions not having a national union, and from Federal Labor Unions, one delegate. Only bona fide wage workers who are not members of or eligible to membership in, other trade-unions shall be eligible as delegates from Federal Trade-unions.

Sec. 2. The delegates shall be elected at least two weeks previous to the Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and the names of such delegates shall be forwarded to the Secretary of this body immediately after their election.

Sec. 3. Questions may be decided by division or a show of hands, but if a call of the roll is demanded by one-tenth of the delegates present, each delegate shall cast one vote for every one hundred members, or major fraction thereof, he represents, but no city or state federation shall be allowed more than one vote.

Sec. 4. The Secretary shall prepare for use of the convention printed poll lists, containing the number of votes the delegates from National and International Unions are entitled to, based upon the average membership during the year, from reports made to the office of the Federation not later than October 31 preceding the Annual Convention.

Sec. 5. No organization which has seceded or has been suspended or expelled from any National or International organization connected with the Federation shall be allowed a representation or recognition in this Federation or in any Central body or National or International Union connected with the American Federation of Labor, under penalty of the suspension of the body violating this section.

Sec. 6. No organization shall be entitled to representation unless such organization has applied for and obtained a certificate of affiliation at least one month prior to the convention, and no person shall be recognized as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of the organization he is elected to represent.

ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

Section 1. The officers of the Federation shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be elected by the convention on the last day of the session, and these officers shall be the Executive Council.

Sec. 2. The President and Secretary shall be members of the succeeding convention in case they are not delegates, but without vote.

Sec. 3. All elective officers shall be members of a local organization connected with the American Federation of Labor.

Sec. 4. The terms of the officers of the American Federation of Labor shall expire on the first day of January succeeding the convention.

Sec. 5. The President and Secretary shall engage suitable offices in the same building at Washington, D.C., for the transaction of the business of the organization.

Sec. 6. All books and financial accounts shall, at all times, be open to the inspection of the President and Executive Council.

ARTICLE VI.—DUTIES OF PRESIDENT.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the Annual Convention; to exercise supervision of the Federation throughout its jurisdiction; to sign all official docu-

ments, and to travel with the consent of the Executive Council, whenever required, in the interest of the Federation.

Sec. 2. The President shall submit to the Secretary, at the end of each month, an itemized account of all moneys, traveling and incidental, expended by him in the interest of the Federation, and shall report his acts and doings to the Annual Convention of the Federation.

Sec. 3. The President, if not a delegate, shall have the casting vote in case of a tie, but shall not vote at other times. He shall be required to devote all his time to the interests of the Federation.

Sec. 4. The President shall call meetings of the Executive Council, when necessary, and shall preside over their deliberations, and shall receive for his services such sum as the Annual Convention may determine, payable weekly.

Sec. 5. In case of a vacancy in the office of President, by death, resignation, or other cause, the Secretary, shall perform the duties of the President until his successor is elected. In that event it shall be the duty of the Secretary to issue, within six days from the date of vacancy, a call for a meeting of the Executive Council at headquarters for the purpose of electing a President to fill said vacancy.

ARTICLE VII.—DUTIES OF SECRETARY.

Section 1. The duties of the Secretary shall be to take charge of all books, papers, and effects of the general office; to conduct the correspondence pertaining to his office; to furnish the elective officers with the necessary stationery; to convene and act as Secretary at the Annual Convention, and to furnish to the Committee on Credentials at the convention, a statement of the financial standing of each affiliated body; to forward, on March 1 and September 1 of each year, to the secretaries of all affiliated organizations a list of the names and addresses of secretaries and organizers.

Sec. 2. The Secretary shall keep all letters, documents, accounts, etc., in such manner as the Annual Convention may direct; he shall receive and collect all moneys due to the Federation, and pay them to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor; provided, that he may retain in his hands a sum not exceeding \$250 for current expenses, which money shall be paid out only on the approval of the President.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall submit to the Auditing Committee for their inspection, vouchers for all moneys expended; close all accounts of the Federation on October 31 of each year, and all moneys received or disbursed after such date shall not be reported in the general balance account of the ensuing convention. He shall publish a financial report monthly in the *American Federationist*, and send one copy to each affiliated body, and such additional number of copies as may be ordered and paid for by any organization connected with the Federation.

Sec. 4. The Secretary shall give a bond of \$1,000 for the faithful performance of his duties, and for his services he shall receive such sum as the Annual Convention may determine, payable weekly.

ARTICLE VIII.—DUTIES OF TREASURER.

Section 1. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of all moneys, property, and se-

curity of the Federation delivered to him by the Secretary. He shall deposit all moneys belonging to the Federation in bank in his name as Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor; and before any moneys thus deposited can be drawn, each check shall be signed by him as Treasurer.

Sec. 2. The Treasurer shall pay, through the Secretary, all warrants regularly drawn on him, signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary, as required by this Constitution, and none others.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall submit to the Annual Convention a complete statement of all receipts and disbursements during his term of office, and at the expiration of his term of office he shall deliver up to his successor all monies, securities, books, and papers of the Federation under his control, and for the faithful performance of his duties he shall give a bond in such sum as the Executive Council may determine. The annual salary of the Treasurer shall be \$100.

ARTICLE IX.—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council to watch legislative measures directly affecting the interests of working people, and to initiate, whenever necessary, such legislative action as the convention may direct.

Sec. 2. The Executive Council shall use every possible means to organize new National or International Trade or Labor Unions, and to organize Local Trade and Labor Unions and connect them with the Federation until such time as there is a sufficient number to form a National or International Union, when it shall be the duty of the President of the Federation to see that such organization is formed.

Sec. 3. When a National or International Union has been formed, the President shall notify all Local Unions of that trade to affiliate with such National or International Union, and unless said notification be complied with within three months their charters shall be revoked.

Sec. 4. The Executive Council shall also prepare and present to the convention in printed form a concise statement of the details leading up to approved and pending boycotts, and no endorsement for a boycott shall be considered by the convention except it has been so reported by the Executive Council.

Sec. 5. While we recognize the right of each trade to manage its own affairs, it shall be the duty of the Executive Council to secure the unification of all labor organizations, so far as to assist each other in any trade dispute.

Sec. 6. Whenever the revenue of the Federation shall warrant such action, the Executive Council shall authorize the sending out of Trade-union sneakers, from place to place, in the interests of the Federation.

Sec. 7. The remuneration for loss of time by members of the Executive Council or sneakers engaged by them shall be \$3.50 per day and traveling and hotel expenses.

Sec. 8. The Executive Council shall have power to make rules to govern matters not in conflict with this Constitution or the constitution of affiliated unions, and shall report accordingly to the Federation.

ARTICLE X.—STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS.

Section 1. In case any National or International or Local body affiliated with this

Federation shall order a strike, or is locked out, and by reason of financial distress it shall be necessary for it to call upon the Federation for aid, the Executive Council, if they deem that such organization is entitled to receive such assistance, shall make an assessment, not exceeding two cents per member per week, upon every National, International, and Local Body affiliated with the Federation.

Sec. 2. Such assessment shall remain in force for a period not exceeding five continuous weeks, unless otherwise ordered by a general vote of all National and International Unions affiliated.

Sec. 3. Any National or International Organization, or other body connected with this Federation, failing to comply with the requirements of Section 1 of this Article, within a period of thirty days, shall be suspended, and shall not be reinstated until all arrearages are paid in full.

Sec. 4. Accompanying a call for an assessment shall be a circular from the President of the Federation, giving a detailed account of the strike or lockout.

Sec. 5. No affiliated body of the American Federation of Labor shall be entitled to benefit from the strike fund of the Federation until it has been six months affiliated, has paid six months' per capita tax to the Federation, and must be in good standing.

ARTICLE XI.—REVENUE.

Section 1. The revenue of the Federation shall be derived as follows: From International or National Trade-unions, a per capita tax of one-third of one cent per member per month; from Local Trade-unions and Federal Unions, two cents per member per month. Central Labor Unions and State Federated bodies shall each pay \$2.50 every three months; if represented in Annual Convention, \$10 extra shall be paid. All moneys shall be payable to the Secretary of the Federation.

Sec. 2. Delegates shall not be entitled to a seat in the Annual Convention unless the tax of their organization, as provided for in Section 1 of this Article, has been paid in full to October 31, preceding the convention.

Sec. 3. Any organization affiliated with this Federation, not paying its per capita tax on or before the 15th of each month, shall be notified of the fact by the Secretary of the Federation, and if at the end of three months it is still in arrears, it shall become suspended from membership in the Federation, and can be reinstated only by vote of the convention when such arrearages are paid in full, as provided in Section 2 of this Article.

ARTICLE XII.—LOCAL CENTRAL BODIES.

Section 1. No Central Labor Union or any other central body of delegates shall admit to, or retain in, their councils, delegates from any local organization that owes its allegiance to any other body, National or International, hostile to any affiliated organization, or that has been suspended or expelled by, or not connected with a National or International organization of their trade herein affiliated, under penalty of being denied representation in the Annual Convention of this Federation.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of all National and International Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to instruct their Local Unions to join chartered Central Labor

Unions in their vicinity where such exist. Similar instructions shall be given by the American Federation of Labor to all Federal Unions under its jurisdiction.

Sec. 3. Where there are one or more Local Unions in any city belonging to any National or International Union affiliated with this Federation, they may organize a Trades Assembly or Central Labor Union, or join such body, if already in existence.

Sec. 4. The Executive Council and Local Central Labor Unions shall use all possible means to organize and connect as Local Unions to National or International Unions, the organizations in their vicinity; to aid the formation of National or International Unions where none exist, and to organize Federal Labor Unions where the number of craftsmen preclude any other form of organization.

ARTICLE XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Section 1. Certificates of affiliation shall be granted by the President of the Federation, by and with the consent of the Executive Council, to all National and International Unions and Local Bodies affiliated with this Federation.

Sec. 2. Seven wage-workers of good character, following any trade or calling, who are favorable to Trades-unions, whose trade or calling is not organized, and are not members of any body affiliated with this Federation, who will subscribe to this Constitution, shall have the power to form a Local Body to be known as a "Federal Labor Union," and they shall hold regular meetings for the purpose of strengthening and advancing the trade-union

movement, and shall have power to make their own rules in conformity with this Constitution, and shall be granted a local certificate by the President of this Federation; provided the request for a certificate be indorsed by the nearest Local or National Trade Union officials connected with this Federation.

Sec. 3. The certificate fee for affiliated bodies shall be \$5, payable to the Secretary of the Federation, and the fee shall accompany the application.

Sec. 4. The American Federation of Labor shall refer all applications for certificates of affiliation from Local Unions or Federal Labor Unions from a vicinity where a chartered Central Labor Union exists to that body for investigation and approval.

Sec. 5. Certificates of affiliation shall not be granted by State Federations of Labor. That power is vested solely in the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and the executive officers of National and International Unions affiliated therewith.

Sec. 6. Not more than three Federal Labor Unions shall be chartered in any one city. No Federal Labor Union shall be recognized as affiliated if its membership consists of a majority of active members of trade unions.

Sec. 7. Fraternal Delegates attending the Convention of the American Federation of Labor shall be entitled to all the rights of delegates from central bodies.

ARTICLE XIV.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution can be amended or altered only at a regular session of the convention, and to do so it shall require a two-thirds vote.

DELEGATES TO THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

ORGANIZATIONS.	NUMBER OF DELEGATES.	Number of Votes for Each Delegate	NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF DELEGATES
American Agents Association....	1	11	C. H. Snyder, 650 W. Jefferson St., Louisville, Ky.
Journeyman Bakers and Confectioners International Union	1	20	James A. Murphy, 325 Schomard St., Syracuse, N. Y.
Boot and Shoe Workers Union....	1	135	John F. Tobin, 620 Atlantic Ave., Boston, Mass.
National Union of United Brewery Workmen.....	2	50	{ August Priestersbach, 404 Market St., St. Louis, Mo.
		50	{ Dan Mahoney, 45 Hamilton St., Holyoke, Mass.
Journeyman Barbers National Union	1	22	W. E. Klapetzky, Box 585, Syracuse, N. Y.
National Brickmakers Alliance..	1	8	Chas Hank, Blue Island, Ill.
International Union of Bicycle Workers	1	6	J. F. Mul'olland, 320 Huron St., Toledo, O.
International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths	1	3	J. W. Kline, care John Slocum, 2443 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, Mo.
Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners.....	1	16	Andrew Murray, 1107 Tenth St., S. W., Washington, D. C.
		50	{ P. J. McGuire, Box 884, Philadelphia Pa.
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.....	4	50	{ Henry Lloyd, 908 Chestnut Ave., Jamaica Plains, Mass.
		50	{ Arthur Leslie, 4035 Cottage Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
		50	{ Samuel Yarnell, Raton, New Mexico.
		68	{ Samuel Gompers, New York City.
		67	{ G. A. Whitaker, 50 West Second South, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Cigarmakers International Union	4	67	{ T. F. Tracy, 114 Hudson St., Boston, Mass.
		67	{ J. C. Dernel, 1150 Monon Bldg., Chicago.
Retail Clerks National Protective Association of the United States	1	27	I. B. Meyers, 348 Main St., Memphis, Tenn.
Coopers International Union.....	1	9	Andrew C. Hughes, 1012 Boylston St., Newton Highlands, Mass.
National Union of Steam Engineers	1	7	P. F. Doyle, 187 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.
United Garment Workers of America.....	2	20	{ B. A. Larger, 311 Ward Ave., Bellevue, Ky.
		20	{ T. J. Crouchley, 28 Lafayette Place, New York City, care Harry White.
Granite Cutters National Union	2	23	James Duncan, 2 N. Holiday St., Baltimore, Md.
		22	William J. O'Brien, 885 Third Ave., New York, N. Y.
National Gold Beaters Protective Union.	1	5	James McCabe, in care of John Connolly, 95 East Fourth St., New York, N. Y.
United Hatters of North America.	2	30	{ John A. Moffitt, 28 Lincoln Place, Orange, N. J.
		30	{ Edward Moore, 114 Noble St., Philadelphia, Pa.
International Union of Journey-men Horseshoers	1	10	Roady Kenehan, 1548 Wazee St., Denver, Col.

ORGANIZATIONS.	NUMBER OF DELEGATES.	Number of Votes for Each Delegate	NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF DELEGATES
Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers.....	1	80	M. M. Garland, 108 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
International Longshoremen's Union	2	50	Dan'l J. Keefe, 3029 th Lowe Ave., Chicago, Ill.
International Association of Machinists	3	47	James O'Connell, 330 Monon Building, Chicago, Ill.
		47	S. B. Glenn, 330 Monon Building, Chicago, Ill.
		46	George H. Warner, 91 Center St., New York, N. Y.
United Mine Workers of America	2	70	M. D. Ratchford, 81 Clinton Building, Columbus, Ohio.
Northern Mineral Mine Workers Progressive Union.....	1	28	T. L. Lewis, Bridgeport, Ohio.
Iron Moulders Union of America	3	40	Robert Askew, 417 High St., Ishpeming, Mich.
		40	Martin Fox, Box 388, Cincinnati, O.
		40	Jos. F. Valentine, 412 B. Devisadero, San Francisco, Cal.
Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers and Brass Workers Union of North America.....	1	36	David Black, Box 388 Cincinnati, O.
American Federation of Musicians	2	23	Edward J. Lynch, 1005 Chamber of Commerce, Detroit, Mich.
Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.....	1	11	Jacob J. Schmalz, 1310 Main St., Cincinnati, O.
Brotherhood of Painters of America	1	50	Owen Miller, 604 Market St., St. Louis, Mo.
International Printing Pressmen's Union	2	25	Homer D. Call, 124 Linden St., Syracuse, N. Y.
United Association of Journeymen Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers of the United States and Canada.....	1	40	James H. Sullivan, 204 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, Md.
Quarrymen's National Union of United States of America.....	1	4	Jas. J. O'Dea, 193 Bowery, New York N. Y.
Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees.....	1	28	Geo. Kleinheinz, 569 Spruce St., Camden, N. J.
International Seamen's Union ...	2	20	William J. Spencer, 10 Danforth, St., Buffalo, N. Y.
Cotton Mule Spinners Association	1	24	Frank M. Dillman, 12th and Jackson Sts., Bloomington, Ind.
Journeymen Tailors Union of America	2	25	W. D. Mahon, 41 Hodges Building, Detroit, Mich.
National Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.....	1	20	Thomas J. Filderkin, 176 N. May St., Chicago, Ill.
National Tobacco Workers Union of America	2	20	Andrew Furuseth, S. E. cor. East and Mission, San Francisco, Cal.
International Typographical Union	4	71	Samuel Ross, Box 367, New Bedford, Mass.
		71	Jno. B. Lennon, Box 1210 Bloomington, Ill.
		71	John L. Hedberg, Nashville, Tenn.
		71	Frank M. Chalfant, Nashville, Tenn.
		71	John White, 1026 Rutger St., St. Louis Mo
		71	Peter J. Koch, 1212 Boyle St. St. Louis
		71	Edward Hirsh, care News, Baltimore, Md.
		71	W. B. Prescott, Indianapolis, Ind.
		71	Daniel J. Sullivan, 169 E. 107th St., New York City.....
		71	Frank Morrison, 287 Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

ORGANIZATIONS.	NUMBER OF DELEGATES.	Number of Votes for Each Delegate	NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF DELEGATES
Amalgamated Woodworkers International Union.....	1	33	Thomas I. Kidd, 602 Garden City Block, Chicago, Ill.
Connecticut State Branch.....	1	1	Thomas Crosby, New Britain, Conn.
Illinois State Branch.....	1	1	Millard Lloyd, Bloomington, Ill.
Massachusetts State Branch.....	1	1	John F. O'Sullivan, 258 Shawmut Ave., Boston, Mass.
New York State Branch.....	1	1	Thomas D. Fitzgerald, 30 Union St., Albany, N. Y.
Baltimore Federation of Labor	1	1	Charles H. Myers, Baltimore, Md.
Boston (Mass.) Central Labor Union	1	1	Thos. J. Murphy, 21 Woodward Ave., Boston, Mass.
Cincinnati (O.) Central Labor Union	1	1	Fred Bazeley, Congress and Fourth Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Chattanooga (Tenn.) Central Labor Union.....	1	1	Jasper C. Rogers, care Daniel Shirley, 947 White side St., Chattanooga, Ten.
Chicago (Ill.) Federation of Labor	1	1	James Brennock, 1039 North Oakley Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Kansas City (Mo.) Industrial Council of Labor Unions.....	1	1	J. O. Walsh, 1101 Main St., Kansas City Mo.
Lawrence (Mass.) Central Labor Union.....	1	1	Andrew J. Casey, 151 Lawrence St., Lawrence, Mass.
Louisville (Ky.) Central Labor Union.....	1	1	Andrew B. Ludwig, 910 Hancock St., Louisville, Ky.
Nashville (Tenn.) Trades and Labor Council.....	1	1	M. J. Mooney, care Journal of Labor.
Philadelphia (Pa.) United Labor League.....	1	1	Ernst Kreft, 2959 Fairhill St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Rochester (N. Y.) Trades Assembly.....	1	1	Richard H. Curran, 333 Smith St.
St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Unions.....	1	1	Phil Hofner, 1919 Tyler St., St. Louis, Mo.
St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly.....	1	1	P. J. Geraghty, <i>Labor Advocate</i> .
Toledo (Ohio) Central Labor Union	1	1	William Tighe, 1678 Missouri Ave.
Troy (N. Y.) Central Federation of Labor.....	1	1	Charles H. Leo, in care of C. M. Beattie, 8 Third St.
Washington (D. C.) Central Labor Union.....	1	1	William Silver, 49 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Federal Labor Union No. 5915.....	1	1	Geo. E. McNeill, 131 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass.
Federal Labor Union No. 6617.....	1	1	Chas. P. Fahey, 703 Main St., Nashville, Tenn.
Federal Labor Union No. 6697.....	1	1	Stephen A. Bonbright, 1310 Main St., Cincinnati, O.
Federal Labor Union No. 6873.....	1	1	James McGill, 937 Stevenson Ave., Louisville, Ky.
Federal Labor Union No. 6877.....	1	1	L. C. Jones, care <i>Call</i> , Columbus, Ga.
Firemen's Protective Union No. 6130.....	1	1	George J. Bennett, 294 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
Horse-Nail Makers Protective and Benevolent Union No. 6170.....	1	2	William J. Welch, care F. H. Warren, 100 Retreat Ave., Hartford, Conn.
Stone Sawyers and Rubbers Union No. 6784.....	1	1	M. J. Sullivan, 675 Twenty-sixth St., Chicago, Ill.
Tile Layers Union No. 6601, Mosaic and Encaustic.....	1	2	Thomas J. Murphy, 305 E. Seventy-eighth St., New York City.
Tile Layers and Helpers Union No. 6719, Mosaic and Encaustic..	1	1	Gus Schwartz, 2220 Fon du Lac Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
Tile Layers Union No. 6927, Mosaic and Encaustic.....	1	1	Walter Thompson, 1234 Thirty-sixth St., N. W., Washington, D. C.
Tile Layers Union No. 6988, Mosaic and Encaustic.....	1	1	J. J. Conroy, 187 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.
The Union Congress of Great Britain.....	Fraternal		{ Edward Harford, London, Eng. { J. Havelock Wilson, London, Eng.

The above list shows that ninety-seven delegates were present, representing seventy-four organizations—forty-two national or international organizations, four State branches, sixteen central bodies, and twelve locals.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
1897

Report of Proceedings.

FIRST DAY—Morning Session.

Nashville, Tenn., December 13, 1897.

The seventeenth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor met in the Hall of Representatives of State Capitol on the above date at 10 o'clock, a.m. It was opened by President Samuel Gompers, who after a few remarks, introduced ex-President Wm. Aimson, of the International Typographical Union, who made the following address of welcome:

Mr. President and Delegates to the American Federation of Labor:

It affords me pleasure, on behalf of the various labor organizations of the city to welcome you to the capital of the State. In doing so, I but voice their sentiments when I say that it is their wish and their hope that your sojourn amongst us will not only be one of pleasure to yourselves, but of profit to those whose representatives you are.

We welcome you to a city that is historic, and to a people whose hospitality is proverbial, whose hearts are carried in their hands, and whose doors open inward at the sound of approaching footsteps.

We welcome you because organized labor feels gratified that Nashville was selected as the place for the convention to be held this year. It confidently expects that its presence will awaken a spirit of unionism amongst those that have stood aloof, which will enable us to present an unbroken front whenever occasion shall so demand. It will arouse the spirit and determination of those who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and reinvigorate them in the work that lies before them.

We welcome you, also, for the reassuring effect it will have upon the members of our various organizations. There is nothing like the touch of elbows in battle (for life is one contiguous battle.) It renews the courage; it revives the drooping spirit; it strengthens the will; it gives firmness to the purpose; it

encourages the weak; it wins victories, and despairs not in defeat. Gathered, as you are, from the different portions of the country, and from different organizations, the interchange of ideas, and the known wants and feelings of your constituents, and the consequent results thereof, will, we hope, redound not only to the benefit of the laboring element, but will command the countenance and aid of all fair-minded men of the land.

Tennessee will be a fruitful field in years not far distant. Five thousand square miles of material wealth lying within her borders, and contiguous thereto, not equalled on the face of the habitable globe—such as iron, copper, coal, marble, phosphates, manganese, and other mineral products—will woo capital and make her one of the great laboring States of the Union, and the roar of the furnace and the hum of machinery will be heard harmonizing with the whirl of the mills.

In this day and time the solving of the problem of labor is the living issue. It cannot be clouded by the springing of collateral expedients and demagogical makeshifts. The contemptuous ignoring of labor by those in high places and by parties will react, and be the political grave of that man or that party. Many of the enunciations of organized labor have found a lodgment in the minds of the people, and are meeting with their approval and endorsement, and will become cardinal principles in platforms that are yet to be made.

The minds of the intelligent and thinking public are discussing questions that have originated in the ranks of labor, with a liberality of thought and fearlessness of expression that augur well for the future. Stores are searched for publications on every given subject—every book is eagerly bought and attentively studied, and thus forming their opinions, they do not hesitate to utter them. Patience, my fellow laborers, patience is the requisite virtue that we must exercise. Fifty years ago those that hoisted the banner of labor did not expect to live to see the result of their efforts, but builded

for those that came after. The fruition will come. Today you stand on advanced ground. You have begun to get the ear of the public. Let your action be so that it will meet with the hearty co-operation of the mass of the people, for without them we can not march to victory.

What the people want is a fair race in life. Place equal opportunities before them and if they are not seized, let them go down. But let not the iron hands of monopoly and trust squeeze the life-blood out of the opportunity. "What avails it to me," said one of the clearest-headed men in this city last week, "If I should give my son all the advantages of an education, and instill business principles into him, and then for him to be surrounded by a Chinese wall, over which he can not mount? He would be an educated serf."

Under plea of cheaper articles to the people, trusts and monopolies are formed, throwing thousands out of employment to become a menace and a danger to the government. Far better is it that men should be employed, for idleness is truly the devil's workshop, and the stability of a government is in the contentment of its citizens. So long as conditions exist that deal unjustly with one element and favor another, so long will the people rise up and attempt to correct them. It is but the vapors of a novice who asserts that every man has the right to do as he pleases. Man is not immaculate. Conditions in life change him. Self-interest is the mighty lever that moves him. He who now addresses you is a hewer of wood and drawer of water. If in the course of the night he should become the possessor of fabulous wealth, on the morrow, perhaps, things would look different. He might have on a new pair of spectacles. The touch of elbows might cease. He might view his fellowman from another standpoint. His acquisitive nature might assert itself in squeezing his fellow being until life became a burden and death became a refuge. If that should occur, then the strong arm of organization should intervene, or the still stronger arm of the law should bear in front of him a shield to protect him from my changed condition and from my selfish grasp.

"Live and let live"—not merely exist—is a motto that should be unfurled on every banner of organized labor, agricultural pursuit, mercantile interest, and industrial calling. No throttling of the aspiring young man no matter in what channel his bark may be cast. No hankrupting of a competitor by the illegal act of a trust. No coercion in the exercise of the elective franchise by capitalistic power, and no pauperism caused by the aggressive greed of the cold-blooded Shylock.

In casting the eye over this convention, I recognize many that have grown old in the service of their fellow man, and when they shall have passed from off the stage of action will have left an impress upon the labor movement that can not be effaced by time. They have given the best years of their lives and the contents of their purses to the principles they have advocated, and they will leave a legacy of duty well performed to the younger generation. To them it has been a work of love and self-abnegation. They have witnessed the growth of organization from a few scattered societies to the culmination of this great body, representing 600,000 souls. Long may they live to encourage by their

presence and advice the younger element, upon whose shoulders will fall the responsibility of carrying out the grand principles so faithfully adhered to by their predecessors. The clouds that have hung over them are dispersing, and through the rifts the sun of a brighter day is seen, and let us hope, as they approach the grave, it will be indicative of the beyond, where all men will stand upon an equal footing, and where there will be no selfishness, no injustice, and no suffering.

And now, gentlemen of the Convention, in conclusion let me say for those I represent, that they feel highly honored that you are in our city. We hope that you will fully realize the expectations of those whom you have the honor to represent in your legislative function. May the fearlessness of that man whose equestrian statue adorns these Capitol grounds, and the statesmanship of that man who gave to this country an empire, and whose remains lie almost at your feet in the soil he loved so well, inspire you, and may the result of your meeting here be productive of good not only to our organization but to the masses of the people.

Mr. Amison's address was listened to with rapt attention and thoroughly appreciated by every delegate present, and was responded to by President Gompers, in part as follows: As the representative of the American Federation of Labor, the visitors here assembled, I want to express to you, Mr. Amison, as the representative of organized labor in Nashville and Tennessee, our sincere appreciation and thanks for the manner in which you have welcomed us, and for the eloquence of your address. The telling points you have made in your masterful address have sunk deep into the hearts of each representative of organized labor here present. We are conscious of the responsibilities laid on our shoulders, and we are simply limited in the accomplishment of our aims and purposes to the abilities and co-operation of our fellow workers. This is not a time to discuss or present the merits of our organization, or the principles underlying it, but I ask you to forbear with me when I call attention to the fact of the great progress we are making. I desire to say that while some progress in legislation in the interest of organized labor has been made in Tennessee, yet there is a very great wrong unremedied, and the men who sleep beneath the earth and who were sunk there by the murderous bullets, shot down while trying to eradicate convict labor from its unrighteous competition with free labor, testify to this existing evil. The blood of these men calls out to workers everywhere to unite with their brothers in Tennessee in their efforts to see that justice is yet done. But there is only one way to secure legislation in the interest of labor—that is, in the same ratio that workers will unite in heart and mind in trade unions.

It is gratifying to note that the best people of our country are extending the hand of friendship to our united organizations. I only now desire to say to you, Mr. Amison, that we appreciate your words of welcome. I can hardly find words to adequately express my appreciation for your admirable address, but I thank you most sincerely, and through you I thank the organized labor of Tennessee.

President Gompers then declared the convention called to order, to transact the business which may come before it.

Delegate Kidd reported that all the credentials had not been handed in to the Secretary and that if a recess of thirty minutes were taken that the Credentials Committee would be able to make a more complete report.

On motion a recess of thirty minutes was taken.

At 10:45 a.m., convention reconvened.

Delegate Kidd, of the Committee on Credentials, reported as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

We, your committee on Credentials, beg leave to report favorably on the following delegates:

American Agents Association, C. H. Sidener, 11 votes.

Journeymen Bakers and Confectioners International Union, James A. Murphy, 20 votes.

National Union of United Brewery Workmen, August Priestersbach, Dan Mahoney, 100 votes.

Journeymen Barbers National Union, W. E. Klapetzky, 22 votes.

National Brickmakers Alliance, Charles Hunk, 8 votes.

International Union of Bicycle Workers, J. F. Mulholland, 6 votes.

International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, James W. Kline, 3 votes.

Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, Andrew Murray, 16 votes.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, P. J. McGuire, Henry Lloyd, Arthur Leslie, Samuel Yarnell, 200 votes.

Cigarmakers International Union, Samuel Gompers, G. A. Whitaker, T. F. Tracy, J. C. Dornell, 269 votes.

Retail Clerks National Protective Association of the United States, I. B. Myers, 27 votes.

Coopers International Union, Andrew C. Hughs, 9 votes.

National Union of Steam Engineers, P. F. Doyle, 7 votes.

United Garment Workers of America, B. A. Larger, T. J. Crouchley, 40 votes.

Granite Cutters National Union, James Duncan, William J. O'Brien, 45 votes.

National Gold Beaters Protective Union, James McCabe, 5 votes.

United Hatters of North America, John A. Moffit, Edward Moore, 60 votes.

International Union of Journeymen Horse-shoers, Rody Keneshan, 20 votes.

Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, M. M. Garland, 80 votes.

International Association of Machinists, James O'Connell, S. B. Glenn, George H. Warner, 140 votes.

United Miners of America, M. D. Ratchford, T. L. Lewis, 140 votes.

Northern Mineral Mineworkers Progressive Union, Robert Askew, 28 votes.

Iron Moulders Union of America, Martin Fox, Joseph F. Valentine, David Black, 120 votes.

Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers, and Brass Workers Union of North America, Edward J. Lynch, 36 votes.

Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Workmen of North America, Homer D. Call, 11 votes.

Brotherhood of Painters of America, James H. Sullivan, 50 votes.

United Association of Journeymen Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters, and Steam Fitters' Helpers of United States and Canada, Wm. J. Spencer, 40 votes.

International Printing Pressmen's Union, James J. O'Dea, Geo. Kleinheinz, 50 votes.

Quarrymen's National Union of United States of America, Frank M. Dillman, 4 votes.

Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees, W. D. Mahon, 28 votes.

International Seamen's Union, Thomas J. Elderkin, Andrew Furuseth, 40 votes.

Cotton Mule Spinners Association, Samuel Ross, 24 votes.

Journeymen Tailors Union of America, John Brown Lennon, John L. Hedberg, 50 votes.

National Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Frank M. Chalfant, 20 votes.

National Tobacco Workers Union of America, John White, Peter J. Koch, 41 votes.

International Typographical Union, W. B. Prescott, Edward Hirsch, Daniel J. Sullivan, Frank Morrison, 284 votes.

Amalgamated Woodworkers International Union, Thos. I. Kidd, 33 votes.

Illinois State Branch, Millard Lloyd, 1 vote.

Massachusetts State Branch, John F. O'Sullivan, 1 vote.

New York State Branch, Thos. D. Fitzgerald, 1 vote.

Baltimore Federation of Labor, Chas. H. Myers, 1 vote.

Boston, Mass., Central Labor Union, Thos. J. Murphy, 1 vote.

Chicago Federation of Labor, James Brennock, 1 vote.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Central Labor Union, Fred Bazley, 1 vote.

Kansas City, Mo., Industrial Council of Labor Unions, J. O. Walsh, 1 vote.

Lawrence, Mass., Central Labor Union, Andrew I. Casey, 1 vote.

Nashville, Tenn., Trades and Labor Council, M. J. Noonan, 1 vote.

Philadelphia, Pa., United Labor League, Ernst Kreft, 1 vote.

Rochester, N. Y., Trades Assembly, Richard H. Curran, 1 vote.

St. Louis, Mo., Central Trades and Labor Unions, Phil Hofner, 1 vote.

Toledo, O., Central Union, William Tighe, 1 vote.

Washington, D. C., Central Labor Union, William Silver, 1 vote.

Troy, N. Y., Central Federation of Labor,
Charles H. Leo, 1 vote.

Federal Labor Union, 5915, George E. McNeill, 1 vote.

Federal Labor Union 6617, Charles P. Fahy, 1 vote.

Federal Labor Union, 6877, L. C. Jones, 1 vote.

Horse-Nail Makers Protective and Benevolent Union 6170, William J. Welch, 2 votes.

Stone Sawyers and Rubbers Association 6784, M. J. Sullivan, 1 vote.

Mosaic and Encaustic Tile Layers Union 6927, Walter Thompson, 1 vote.

Mosaic and Encaustic Tile Layers Union 6601, Thos. J. Murphy, 2 votes.

Firemen's Protective Union 6130, George J. Bennett, 1 vote.

Fraternal delegates, J. Havelock Wilson and Edward Harford.

Respectfully submitted,
R. ASKEW, Chairman,
JAMES M. KINE,
THOMAS I. KIDD, Secretary.

Delegate Kidd stated that the report was incomplete, and that after the convention adjourned the committee would meet to hear protests which were on file.

Delegate Elderkin moved that the report of the Committee on Credentials be adopted and the delegates seated. Adopted.

Delegate O'Sullivan moved that we now proceed with the business of the convention and listen to the President's report.

Motion adopted.

Delegate Duncan moved that the rules of last convention govern until the Committee on Rules is ready to report. Adopted.

The President appointed the following Committee on Rules: S. B. Glenn, James A. Murphy, J. F. Mulholland, Samuel Yarnell, and Andrew C. Hughs.

Fraternal Delegates J. Havelock Wilson and Edward Harford were introduced by the President.

The President presented the names of Theodore Perry, as Assistant Secretary; A. J. Blair, as Messenger, and C. S. Newhauser, as Sergeant-at-Arms. The appointments were then confirmed.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS' REPORT.

To the Delegates of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Comrades and Fellow Workers: Pursuant to the laws as well as custom of our organization, the President of the American Federation of Labor is required to report to the annual conventions a resume of the work of the year, and it is akin to pleasure that this report is submitted to you for your careful consideration and action. Before doing so, however, it is but proper that attention should be called to the very great importance of this convention.

In the call for this convention I took occasion to say that we have had many important gatherings, but perhaps, none which have been called upon to deal with more momentous questions than confront the workers of today; that the wrongs from which the workers suffer have not been righted; the injustice imposed upon our people remains unremedied; the overworked large mass and the unemployed many are still testimony to the folly of our age; the employment of children in our factories and workshops, though modified, lingers with us still, and the spectacle is witnessed of idle men and laboriously busy children; legislatures more concerned with the privileges to the few than the rights of the many; with public assemblage and free speech invaded, threatened, or forbidden, and the modern judicial weapon of injunction utilized in the effort to crush labor. These rights and wrongs and others of equal importance, but too numerous for reference here, must of necessity be considered by the forthcoming convention, and such action devised as shall tend to attain the one and set aside the other.

At no time have the legitimate and natural organizations of the wage-earners—the trade unions—been more mercilessly assailed, subtly attacked, and unjustly antagonized; in no previous era have they been more zealously safeguarded, protected, and promoted the true interests of the workers of our country, and a decade may pass before more absorbing problems confront them; these now before us require the combined intelligence, earnestness, energy and honesty of all in the effort to truly and faithfully solve.

In the conventions of the American Federation of Labor the workers of the country find the true presentation of their hopes and aspirations. There the voice of labor is heard; there the demands of the workers to obtain redress for their wrongs and grievances and the attainment of their rights are discussed, formulated, and presented to the world; it is there where the workers peacefully assemble, and in concise, rational terms present their claims upon modern society for justice; it is there where the workers should be represented by the duly accredited delegates of their trade unions in full affiliation with the most general, comprehensive, intelligent, progressive and aggressive labor organization that has ever existed in our country—the "American Federation of Labor."

These sentiments I now repeat and emphasize with all the power of my being, and earnestly trust that they may sink deep into the hearts and minds of all workers, confident that then the time cannot be far distant when long-deferred justice will prevail; when truer and nobler relations among man shall be inaugurated, and usher in an era when "man's inhumanity to man" shall be a record and a recollection of by-gone and deplored age.

Friends and fellow delegates, to the responsible task involved by your presence at and participation in this convention, I bid you let us give the best thought and action of which we are capable. I pray you that it may not be truly said of us that we were unfaithful to the great cause and interests committed to our care. There is a world of injustice to eradicate; there is a universe filled with wails of sorrow and grief awaiting the hosts of intelligent, progressive and aggressive

organized workers to never falter in the contests for alleviation and emancipation. Keeping the goal of our movement as our guiding star, organizing, federating, agitating, educating, and contesting on every field, yielding fruitful results, we shall, as the hours of the day, advance from the deepest gloom to the full midday glory of light—the light of hope, happiness, and humanity. To this noble work; to this splendid convention; to this beautiful city; in the name of the grand army of labor, I bid you welcome.

GROWTH OF ORGANIZATION.

We started off in the year with newly-formed national unions from the isolated locals of a number of trades. That is: the Bicycle Workers International Union, the Steam Engineers National Union, Core Makers International Union, Brotherhood of Paper Makers, and the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's National Union, charters to each of which have been issued. These unions are making excellent progress, they having, respectively, forty, sixteen, and twenty-seven local unions attached.

During the year the following national unions became affiliated with our Federation, and to which charters were issued: The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths; the Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers United Association of America; the United Brotherhood of Paper Makers of America, and the Gold Beaters National Union. A number of local trade unions and Federal labor unions were organized and chartered during the year. New central bodies were organized, and old ones, which had become defunct, revived. Charters to eighteen central bodies, 180 local unions, and eight national unions were issued.

With but two exceptions, all our affiliated national unions report a large increase of local unions and in membership. There is an increase of about 34,000 members in the organizations affiliated, and for whom per capita tax is paid, over the number at the end of the last fiscal year. It must be borne in mind that when a national union is formed it reduces the per capita tax to the American Federation of Labor office just seventy-five per cent. But the advantages of national unions to labor have been the first consideration.

There can be no doubt that the gains are due to several causes, among which may be mentioned that our organizations maintained their existence during the industrial stagnation of past years; the recognition by the workers that there is only one means by which they can defend, protect, or advance their interests, that is by organization; the increasing activity, devotion, and indefatigable work of our organizers, both local and general; the energy and ability of the officers of our national and international organizations, and the constant urging and direction from the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor.

I have called a convention of delegates of the various tilelayers unions to be held simultaneously with our convention for the purpose of forming a national union of the trade, and I suggest that a delegate to this convention be directed to aid the delegates in the work before them.

It was my purpose to form a number of other national unions from isolated locals, but circumstances were against its fulfillment, although the preliminaries for them have been instituted. It is the constant purpose of our movement not only to organize local unions, but to crystallize them into national or international unions, so that they may the better be enabled to protect their trade interests, that a union man's traveling card shall be his credential and passport wherever he may go and be received as a fellow worker and as a fellow unionist, and that out of these national and international unions there shall be a family, a federation, as broad and comprehensive as our minds can conceive.

UNSKILLED LABOR, FEDERAL LABOR UNIONS, AND DUES.

It has been the constant aim of the trade union movement to exercise its power and influence to organize our fellow workers engaged in unskilled labor. With the invention of new machines and the applications of new forces, the division and subdivision of labor, many workers who have been employed at skilled trades find themselves with their occupation gone, and to which they have devoted long terms of years to acquire. Thus we see the artisan of yesterday the unskilled laborer of today.

In providing for the organization of our unskilled workers in Federal Labor Unions, the American Federation of Labor has adopted a splendid haven of protection. Whenever Federal Labor Unions are organized, they are the recruiting grounds for the trade unions, both of the skilled and unskilled workers, and as soon as a sufficient number of one trade or calling, whether belonging to skilled or unskilled labor, they are required to form a union of those who follow the same trade or occupation. Thus our Federal Labor Unions are the recruiting stations for the trade union movement. It is a source of gratification to report that within this past year a very large number of Federal Labor Unions have been organized, and from them a much larger number of trade unions, which, in most instances, were of those trades having national organizations, and their organization and transfer have been effected with advantage to the workers themselves, the organizations of the trades, and the general labor movement. It will not be uninteresting for you to know that we have several Federal Labor Unions with a membership in each of more than 2,000, and in which, happily, the differentiation and classification and transfer, as already referred to, are taking place.

One of the difficulties experienced in the transfer of isolated local trade unions to the national unions of their trade has been that the per capita tax the local unions are required to pay the American Federation of Labor is much lower than that naturally required to be paid to the headquarters of a national union. Our newly-organized local trade unions do not seem to understand the benefits and advantages resultant from their connection with the national trade unions, hence demur, in some cases, against the transfer, and it is only after the matter is fully argued out and every effort made urging them to this action that compliance is had, and then, often, quite reluctantly. For these reasons and for the further reason that for every cent forwarded to headquarters, practical and tangible results are achieved in the interest of all, the question is submitted to your consideration whether the per capita tax

from local trade unions and local Federal Labor Unions should not be increased so as to come nearer the sum usually required by national unions, thus removing a very great obstacle to the transfer of local trade unions to their proper jurisdiction.

WAGE-EARNERS' MOVEMENT.

With the growth and extension of our Federal Labor Unions, we occasionally find a difficulty which is increasing and one which requires constant correspondence and attention. Through a false notion inculcated during the existence of the Knights of Labor, it is difficult, in some instances, to convince our members of Federal Labor Unions of the absolute necessity to maintain the clear-cut character of our movement as a wage-earners' movement. Often through expressions of kindly feelings, employers, superintendents, foremen, and business men of the localities are accepted as members. It has occurred that when the enforcement of the laws and the policy of the Federation has been insisted upon, it was assumed that an injustice was practiced. Experience shows that workmen, when others than wage-earners are members of the union, are often reluctant in expressing their true sentiments or are prevented from taking such action as would tend to protect them against any wrongs inflicted upon them by their employers, in a word having been placed practically in their unions in the same defenseless position as they are in their employment. Again, business men, for the simple purpose of advancing their own business interests, have joined the union, and, consequently, created divisions and schisms and diverted the purpose of the organization. Of course, it does not necessarily follow that because a business man may join that it is simply for the advancement of his own interests, but in order to avoid the possibility of wrong in this line, the laws and policy of our organization exclude them from membership. If an employer, superintendent, foreman, business man, etc., is favorably inclined toward our fellow workers, and our movement, there are ample opportunities for such manifestations without his membership in our unions. It has required constant vigilance and caused a good deal of annoyance to prevent a wider spread of the danger referred to, and it is hoped that some expression of this convention will be made to more clearly set this matter forth.

FUNDS FOR NATIONAL ORGANIZERS.

Previous conventions, and particularly the last, adopted resolutions directing both the Executive Council and the President to appoint organizers, both special and general. These instructions we were unable to fully carry out, owing to the lack of provision of funds for that purpose. Where resolutions are adopted directing officers to appoint others to perform special work, and means are not at hand to carry them into effect, it gives cause for dissatisfaction, the blame is usually placed upon the Executive, who is then made the object of attack, being charged with lack of sympathy with the trade or the workers of the particular section of the country. This is particularly true in the case of the instruction in regard to the intermountain country of the far West. To the fullest extent of our means, special and general organizers have been appointed and deputed to organize unions. Our conventions should either provide the means by which its instructions can be put into effect, or hesitate in its legislation involving expenditure of money.

HIGH DUES AND DEFENSE FUND.

Your attention is again called to the necessity of impressing upon the minds of our fellow unionists the establishment of the principle of high dues in their unions. Experience, even of recent years, has demonstrated the wisdom of this measure. Those of our organizations which have established high dues have experienced the greatest success and maintained or improved wages, decreased hours, and obtained other concessions in the interests of their members.

In like manner, the question of the creation of a defense fund in the American Federation of Labor should receive your careful attention. I am confident that if the matter is approached with an earnest purpose to realize it, it can be accomplished with advantage to our movement. In my reports to previous conventions I have dealt with these subjects extensively, and they are, therefore, simply referred to here. I should add however, that time has only convinced me of the necessity of their adoption.

TEXTILE WORKERS.

Last year it was deemed necessary to take action regarding the interests of the textile workers. We had expended large sums of money for the purpose of organizing unions of the trade, and found those in position in the national organization had divested it of every vestige of a trade union character. Pursuant to your instructions, a representative of the Executive Council was directed to attend a convention of the Textile Workers National Union, and the subject-matter directly brought to their attention; that is, that unless they proposed to organize the textile workers as a trade union, the Federation would undertake that function. We found that while efforts in other trades were being made to protect the interests of labor, the textile workers' condition was becoming more deplorable daily, by reason of inactivity and the hostile attitude of those who were intrusted with the work of organization. I am pleased to report to you that the result of our action has been appreciated by the Textile Workers National Union, it is officered by those who are devoted to its growth and interests, it is deserving of all the sympathy and aid that is in our power to give, and I recommend that every officer, organizer, and union man redouble efforts to extend the beneficent influence of the organization of the trade.

SHEET METAL WORKERS.

At the last convention, after a thorough hearing and of the presentation of the matter by a representative of the Sheet Metal Workers National Association, it was decided that unless that organization revoked the charter of the local union 002, which had been organized unfairly and in antagonism to the trade interests, notice of said refusal and of the revocation of the charter of the national association should be given to all organized labor of the country. I hesitated to promulgate this decision to our unions in the hope that action would be taken by the national association obviating its necessity. A member of the Executive Board of the National also asked that the matter be delayed in order that the action desired might be taken. We recently learned that the unfair local has met with a natural death, and, therefore, no obstacle stands in the way with either the national organization becoming again affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, or that official notice of our action be given. Inasmuch as our organizers within the past few months have instituted a number of local unions and attached them to the national association, that it is receiving the full benefits of the work of organized labor, it seems that nothing should interfere now with it again assuming the fraternal relations existing prior to this unfortunate incident.

DIVISION OF LABOR MOVEMENT DANGEROUS.

During the early part of the year my attention was called to the fact that there was an effort being made to divide the labor movement of the country on geographical lines. This was studiously fomented and afterwards openly avowed. Steps were immediately taken to counteract the consummation of this suicidal policy, and it is a source of gratification to be enabled to state, that, at least for the time being, the evil sought to be accomplished has been laid at rest, let us hope, never again to be revived. The employing class the wealth possessors, the corporate power of our country, allow no geographical lines to interfere with the recognition of the identity of their interests. In everything that affects them alike they stand a unit. They do not allow mountains, mountain passes, or oceans to divide them. They recognize the identity of their interests, as attested by the unity of their direction, the solidarity of their action.

It is worse than folly for any of the workers of our country to attempt to enter the wedge of discord into the ranks of organized labor and disrupt it for any cause, much less on sectional or geographical lines. It may be true that the larger duties of officers are exercised in those centers where industry is concentrated, hence the largest number of organizations exist. This is quite natural, though, when it is borne in mind that the largest field of activity and the performance of duties are necessarily coexistent in such centers, but it is not true that the interests of our fellow workers of any section of our country have been neglected. The best efforts put forth this year have been for the miners in the Middle States; a representative of the far West was selected as the chief of our legislative committee before Congress; special organizers were sent through the South last year; an appropriation of money was made to defend the laws of one of our far Western States, and this convention is being held in Tennessee, and all find equal representation in the Conventions of the American Federation of Labor. There can be no question but that as time goes on, industry will further develop and organizations become more complete, we shall find organization more general and the necessity for unity and solidarity more apparent. To attempt to divide wage-earners, thus placing any obstacle to the fulfillment of our mission, is not only folly, but is tantamount to a crime against the interests of labor, the interests of our people now and for all time to come. The territory of our country is extensive, but not large enough to admit of a division of our labor movement. Our efforts and our hopes should not be circumscribed by cities, States, or geographical divisions of our country; our aim should be to unite the workers of our continent and to strive to attain the unity, solidarity, and fraternity of the workers of the world.

STRIKES—THE MINERS' STRIKE.

There have been quite a number of strikes within the past year, but the change in the causes which have produced them are worthy of note, that is, the strikes of this year, with few exceptions, have been for higher wages, shorter hours, and the extension and recognition of union principles. Some time ago a circular was issued from our office for the purpose of obtaining statistical information upon the question of strikes, the number of persons involved, those benefited or worsted, and other valuable information was sought and obtained. Our organizations report, with gratifying unanimity, the very large number of successes achieved, advantages gained, and the growth and extension of the power of organization enjoyed. The Secretary has engrained in his report, in condensed form, some of the results gleaned. Other and more detailed information will be available for future use and reference.

Of course, among the most notable strikes of the year was that of the coal miners, involving nearly 140,000 men. At the time when the strike occurred there were few miners organized, and the national organization had no means with which either to support the men involved or to conduct the affairs of the general office, nor had the organization the means to place in the field the organizers which experience demonstrated so necessary to attain success.

Upon being advised as to the time when the strike would take place, immediate action was taken to enlist the whole body of organized labor in sympathetic accord, and co-operation with the miners. It is gratifying to be enabled to state that no act was done nor left undone, but which could tend to bring the very best possible results to the men and the organization engaged in the conflict.

During the strike there were a number of persons who sought to disrupt our movement, bring discord in our organization, and who saw no better means at their command than to attack its officers. Perhaps, at no time were men more scathingly, mendaciously, and unjustly

slandered than were the officers of the American trade union movement during the miners' strike. Some with particular hobbies, which they change as often as does a kaleidoscope, but who yet had sufficient acumen to observe that with success for the miners upon trade union lines their hobbies would be crippled and their theories proven unsound, have, while assuming the garb of friendship, preached and prophesied defeat, and declared that nothing but disaster would overtake the miners. Never having attained success in any cause in which they were engaged, these Apostles of Failure realized that if the miners won, the ground of opposition to trade unions would be proven untenable. As no man can be brave in defense of principles in which he does not fully believe, so did not and could not men honestly or faithfully defend trade union action when they did not believe in trade union policy, trade union tactics.

It is a source of satisfaction, however, that out of the miasmatic atmosphere of abuse and unjust attack stand the gratification and the voluntary evidence of the rank and file of the miners of the country to the splendid services rendered by the officers, the generous financial aid contributed by the trade unions, and above all, stands out in bold relief the success attending the miners' contest, an increase of 22 per cent in wages having been secured for more than 80,000 and some increase, though not so large, for all other coal miners. It would be difficult to determine as to which among our affiliated organizations or who among the organizers, which so many of them sent into the coal fields, performed the best service. Sufficient is it for us to know that, for the first time in the history of our movement, representatives of different trades organizations practically conducted the contest in the field, each vying with the other to attain the best possible results and each of them deserving the highest encomium of praise for the work done and the result secured. It was the purpose of our organizations, while furnishing men and money to conduct the contest, its direction was left in the hands of representatives of the miners—the officers of their organization.

THE LATTIMER MASSACRE.

An incident connected with the miners' strike requires special mention here. While a body of unarmed and defenseless miners were marching upon the public highways from Hazelton to Latimer, Pa., they were met by the sheriff of the county with a posse of armed mercenaries, who, without cause or provocation, and in violation of the constitutional and natural rights of men, turned upon them and in cold blood murdered twenty-two and maimed and crippled as many more of them. All reports agree that the men attacked were violating no law, guilty of no wrong, many of them shot to death while fleeing from their malignant pursuers. This crime against our laws, this brutality against inoffensive men, the wail of widows and orphans, the wounded pride of American citizenship and common humanity cry out not only that justice shall be meted out to these modern hyenas, but that never again shall so great a wrong be inflicted upon any of our people. An attempt has been made to becloud the judgment of our people under the cry that the men killed and wounded are "foreigners," but even though this be true, these foreigners were lured here by the cupidity of mercenary corporations. It is submitted that, though a man be a foreigner, there are some rights, some protection, to which he is entitled, which even corporations and their hirelings are bound to respect.

UNION LABEL AGITATION.

It is interesting to note the constantly increasing demand for union labeled products. Every union formed or educated to demand union labeled products is the best promoter of the principle of solidarity and the sentiment of fraternity among the workers. Since the publication in the *American Federationist* of the group of union labels, we have had a very large number of trade papers and labor papers follow the example. These have been splendid means of agitating and advertising the union label question. Then, again, a number of clubs and associations, auxiliary to the labor movement, are being constantly formed, and which are aiding in the general education of the people as to the economic, moral, and sanitary advantages resulting from encouragement and purchase of union labeled products.

At the last convention it was reported that a label league had been formed between the representatives of the national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor having union labels, and the request made for the appropriation of quite a sum of money. The entire matter was referred to the Executive Council with power to act, but inasmuch as the large expenditures of the year for purposes which could not be avoided and a comparative insufficiency of funds at our command, no direct financial assistance could be given the project.

By circulars, placards, and various other devices, as well as the co-operation of all organized labor and the labor press, the union label question has been very largely agitated. The best possible results have been attained with the least possible expenditures. Agitation and education of the union label should go on uninterrupted with a larger field for our activity. This weapon is productive of good results with the expenditure of less energy than any other at the command of labor. With the passage of laws in our several State legislatures, we are continually extending the legal protection against imitation or counterfeiting and the exclusive use of and right in our labels. The fact that attempts are made to imitate and counterfeit our labels is one of the very best evidences of their value. There is no incentive to either imitating or counterfeiting articles which in themselves possess no value.

EIGHT HOUR MOVEMENT.

The movement to reduce the hours of labor is always one which commands the first attention of organized labor. The daily improvements in machinery, in methods of production and distribution, the extension and application of the forces of steam and electricity, the improvement in the tools of labor, the division and subdivision of labor, and the intense desire of the em-

ploying class to utilize machines to their fullest possible extent, that is, the longest number of hours per day, must, of necessity, unless met by another counter-acting influence, tend to supplant labor and throw numbers of our fellow workers out of employment. This counter-acting influence is logically and of necessity the organized effort of our fellow workers in trade unions. That movement being the reduction in the hours of labor so that the evil of long hours of labor on the one hand, and a lack of employment on the other, may both be remedied at once and the same time.

It is not the diminution of the productive power of labor which prompts our course, as it is to give greater leisure and larger opportunities to those who are employed, making of all a greater consumptive power, thus giving an impetus to and creating the opportunities for employment of those who are now vainly seeking it. We hold that no condition is satisfactory nor any solution complete which fails to eliminate the curse and degrading influences of non-employment, and, so long as this evil shall be with us, our best efforts will be concentrated to the reduction of the hours of labor of all, until the desired end is attained.

With this object in view the last convention decided that a renewed effort should be made for the general enforcement of the eight-hour workday, May 1, 1898.

Early in the year a letter was written to every affiliated national and international organization, urgently requesting it at its convention to take affirmative action, if it be in position to do so, or placing the power in the executive officers of the organization to inaugurate or participate in the movement. Some of the affiliated unions have not been in a position to take definite affirmative action, but all have, without exception, declared in its favor or pledged their unqualified support to those who might participate therein. A special circular was issued to all affiliated unions, with a view of ascertaining their attitude and securing their co-operation. Articles have been written in our official publications and a special pamphlet written and published upon the question. Men in public affairs have responded to the request to make the subject of eight hours, or the shorter workday, a special theme for their discussions, lectures, or sermons. The question was almost universally discussed at the demonstrations last Labor Day. Unusual interest has been manifested by all in this proposed movement. The assessment of one cent per member, levied by the last convention, has been utilized for the general agitation and education upon this question. A number of meetings of the advisory board (created by the last convention) have been held and a plan of action for agitation formulated. Every opportunity has been taken advantage of and frequently created for the purpose of presenting this subject in as concise and comprehensive form as possible to the attention of our fellow workers and the public generally. Nothing remains now but for the final decision of this convention as to the ways and means by which the project shall be carried into effect, or whether the judgment of the convention is that the time stated is, in view of industrial conditions, a practical one, or whether it would be advisable to await the full floodtide of an industrial revival for its general and simultaneous enforcement. This question must, of necessity, receive your careful consideration.

Nothing, perhaps, would be more hurtful than an unwise decision. Of course, we do not anticipate that at one given moment the general eight-hour day will be achieved, but there can be no doubt but what a concentration of thought and effort to attain this and the designation of a particular day to endeavor to secure it will largely attract the attention of all and succeed in accomplishing much. If the judgment of this convention is that May 1, 1898, is the day upon which the bugle call for labor shall be sounded, none will enter it with greater enthusiasm and undaunted spirit than we. Yet, if the deliberate conclusion of this convention is that the simultaneous effort should be deferred until a more opportune time, say the postponement of it for one year, that should prevail. It is no idle nor boastful statement for us to say that we are the representatives of the organized wage-earners of our country and that those who by circumstances or environments have not yet joined our movement are in sympathy with us, hence, it devolves upon us to carefully formulate our plans of campaign, and so shape our tactics without regard to the criticism or opposition of our mercenary or hypocritical opponents. Conscious of the righteousness of our cause, and the necessity of our movement, we should press on our work without fear or favor. It is not amiss to state that during the past year many successes attended the efforts of our fellow unionists in securing the diminution in their working hours, and that this movement is continually making headway unostentatiously, hence unobserved by many. The entire subject is referred to you for your consideration and decision. I recommend that the appointment of a special committee be authorized for the purpose of taking this matter under consideration and to advise the further plan of action.

LABOR LEGISLATION.

The Legislative Committee elected by the Cincinnati Convention proceeded to the capital and immediately pressed for the passage of legislation resolved upon by the convention. Our success, however, has been largely negative, since much legislation vicious and inimical to the interests of labor in general was defeated.

EIGHT-HOUR LAW AMENDMENT.

In company with your Legislative Committee and other members of the Executive Council and unions interested, I appeared before the Committee on Labor, and various other committees of both the House and Senate, and succeeded in having a favorable report made upon the eight-hour law, with such amendments as were deemed necessary to its proper interpretation and enforcement. The committee unanimously reported the bill favorably to the House, and submitted a strong recommendation for its enactment. During the discussion on this bill before the committee, one of its members, and the present chairman of that committee (Hon. John J. Gardiner), suggested new lines upon which a bill could be drawn which would compel its

enforcement by Department officers. While your Executive Council declined to commit our organization to a bill drawn upon the lines suggested, it seemed, however, that the measure might probably effect our purpose far better than either our present law or our proposed amendments. I recommend that the incoming Executive Council have power to approve such a bill, after obtaining legal advice, and it shall appear to them as productive of the best results. Our purpose is to insist that our General Government, while perhaps not being a model employer, shall be a fairly generous one, abreast of the times, and carry out the spirit as well as the letter of its enactments.

In compliance with a resolution of our convention the names of contractors doing work for, or on behalf of, the Government of the United States are now regularly published in the Bulletin issued by the Department of Labor. A better opportunity is thus offered to our organizations to secure the enforcement of the eight hour law which is now made one of the specifications of all contracts.

MEMORIAL REGARDING LABOR LEGISLATION.

In the early part of the year your Executive Council together with the Advisory Board and a number of other representative unionists waited upon the President of the United States, members of the Cabinet, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and other members of Congress, with a view of impressing upon each and all the necessity for the enforcement of the laws enacted in the interest of labor and demanding, in labor's name, such remedial legislation calculated to promote the welfare of our people. A memorial was presented to each and subsequently a number of letters were transmitted and personally handed to a number of the officers of our Government, all tending to the same purpose. In an interview with the President he expressed himself in favor of labor organizations and equally so in favor of legislation in the interest of labor. It was suggested that he might use his great office to recommend this legislation to Congress. He expressed regret that his first annual message would contain so much important and pressing matter as would preclude the probability of his being able to touch upon labor's interest, but if this was omitted in his first message it would be made a subject of a special message to Congress.

SEAMEN—INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.

During the early part of the year the Supreme Court of the United States rendered a decision in a case involving the right of seamen to quit their employment even when the vessel was in safe harbor. The decision was adverse to the rights of the seamen. In the opinion accompanying the decision, the court gave expression and laid down doctrines entirely inimical to the interests of the people, and in so many words invalidated the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting involuntary servitude. Your attention is called to the dissenting opinion of the court in order that the full measure of the wrong may be appreciated. The decision is the most far-reaching which the Supreme Court has issued since its famous Dred Scott decision enforcing a return of a fugitive slave who escaped to another State. In view of legislation which some seek, placing greater powers in the hands of government, it is submitted that greater caution should be exercised in the future than has been in the past, in order that some of the rights which the people possess, or believe they possess, may not be taken from them through court-made law. A rehearing of the case has been applied for, but thus far has not been granted.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

The splendid work of our central bodies throughout the year is manifest in the practical aid rendered to every organization represented therein. Not only the smaller and weaker organizations were benefited but the larger and more powerful equally so. Apart from this feature, too, must be added that local laws and ordinances regarding the recognition of labor's demands, such as a minimum wage, limitation of the hours of labor, and other valuable measures too numerous to mention here, have been secured. It is worthy of note that a greater public spirit is being manifested all through our municipal life. And municipal ownership of public works, a bugaboo of a decade ago, when first demanded by labor, is now, fast becoming popular. It is safe to say that there is now a more extensive municipal ownership and control of waterworks, gas and electric light systems, and other features which, in their nature, are monopolies, than is extant elsewhere in the world. Our fellow unionists should urge, with renewed vigor, the extension and practical application of this principle so conducive to our general well-being.

As already indicated, legislation antagonistic to the interests of labor and the progress of the labor movement has been prevented not only in National Congress, but in State Legislatures. It should be noted, too, that quite a degree of success was secured in the progress of State Legislation in the interest of the workers. There are but few legislatures which have not during the past year passed laws of a beneficial character, ameliorative of the conditions of labor, granting greater recognition of, and guaranteeing better protection to, the organizations of labor.

NON-PARTISAN COMMISSION BILL.

The Non-partisan Commission Bill, for the purpose of investigating the conditions of labor, and reporting to Congress such remedial legislation as may be desired, was passed by both Houses of Congress, but failed to become a law by reason of the President failing to sign it before his term expired. A bill on similar lines to the one passed was introduced in the Senate

at the special session, and has been introduced in the House within the past few days. While the bill is not so comprehensive a measure as was the original, it is the initiative of such legislation, and should, therefore, receive your consideration and action.

ANTI-BLACKLIST LEGISLATION.

A skillfully drawn bill was introduced in the House ostensibly to prevent conspiracies among employers to blacklist employees; but, upon close scrutiny, it was apparent that if enacted it would react upon organized labor in any attempt to enforce union rules and union conditions in an establishment. We entered a vigorous protest against it, and it failed of passage. In connection with this subject your attention is called to the fact that in several State legislatures bills of a similar character were introduced, and only through prompt and decisive action were they all defeated. It is suggested that in the event any so-called anti-blacklist bill is introduced, either in any State legislature or in Congress, labor should demand that a provision shall be incorporated specifically stating that nothing in the law shall be so construed as to apply to officers or members of a labor organization in their peaceable efforts to enforce the laws or rules of the union. During the pendency of such bills in the legislature the above suggestion was generally sent out to our fellow unionists in the several States. Invariably when these suggestions were offered in the shape of an amendment the advocates of the bill abandoned it, betraying at once the real purpose of the proposition.

In connection with this subject it is interesting to note that under present law an important suit involving heavy damages was recently won by a workman blacklisted by one of our railroads. The difficulty to prove by competent evidence, the existence of a blacklist is, for obvious reasons, apparent, hence unless organized labor is exempt in distinct terms from the penal provisions of any new legislation it would be much safer and more advantageous to rest content under present laws on the subject.

AMENDMENT TO ANTI-TRUST LAW.

On behalf of the railroad companies a bill has been introduced amending the so-called "Anti-trust Law," designed to overcome the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court declaring that agreements of traffic associations of a non-competitive nature are unlawful. Except in the instance named, the real effect of the present law has been to hold that the organizations of labor are unlawful combinations. Owing to their conditions and environments the workers have had greater cause for complaint against judicial decisions under this law than any other form of combination. The railroad corporations have preyed upon the interests of the people. Organized labor is the people's protector and defender. It has been our purpose, therefore, to see that the interests of labor should be protected and the efforts of the workers by combination to improve their condition to obtain justice be uninterfered with. I have insisted before the Senate Committee, having this bill in charge, that no amendment to this law ought to pass, unless it contained an additional provision exempting organized labor, in direct terms, from the provisions, or the judicial constructions of the provisions of the law, holding that organized labor is amenable to the charge of being "in restraint of trade," or conspiracies. This convention should give emphatic expression to our views upon this measure, and our legislative committee or executive officers, or both, should be instructed to leave no effort untried to secure the desired result.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH AND SAVINGS BANKS.

The establishment of a postal savings bank system and a postal telegraph system, long since demanded by organized labor, seems nearer accomplishment than at any previous time. Powerful allies have been won to our side of these demands, and public opinion has undergone much of a change in their favor. A well-directed effort on our part, will, beyond doubt, soon result in success.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION.

At the last convention the position taken by the American Federation of Labor upon the question of compulsory arbitration was reiterated and the question of a bill then pending in Congress for compulsory arbitration and the compulsory enforcement of an award was referred to the Executive Council with power to act in the premises. By order of the Executive Council, the advice of eminent counsel was obtained. The advice given was that the provisions of the bill were highly injurious to the workers, and particularly so to their organized effort to obtain just conditions. This opinion was, no doubt, influenced by decisions rendered by the courts, particularly in the case of the seamen then recently decided by the Supreme Court of the United States. In compliance with your directions and that of the Executive Council, I protested against the enactment of the law.

Thereupon the executive officers of the various railroad trade unions came to Washington and a conference was had with them, the outcome of which was that the subject-matter should be referred to an attorney mutually agreed upon, whose opinion should be ascertained, the cost of whose services to be equally borne. The opinion rendered by the attorney, while, in the main, upholding the contention of the railroad brotherhoods as to the benefits of such a law, yet, in many instances, admitted the dangers pointed out at our convention and by the attorneys first consulted. The protest which I entered was sufficient to defeat the bill from final passage by the Senate, it having previously passed the House of Representatives.

In view of the experience gained in this measure it is submitted to you whether it would not wise to modify our position in so far as to interpose no objection to the passage of a law provid-

ing compulsory arbitration in disputes between the organized employees of the railroads and the railroad companies, and the giving of an award by such lawful arbitrators; but we should hesitate to give our endorsement to any legislation, State or National, empowering the compulsory enforcement of an award and the specific enforcement of a contract to labor. A copy of the protest entered, together with the legal opinions obtained from both attorneys with comments thereon, are herewith submitted.

SECRETARY OF LABOR.

Pursuant to instructions a bill was introduced for the extension of the Department of Labor and creating the office of Secretary of the Department with a seat in the President's Cabinet. This bill, aside from its own merits, has increased importance when it is borne in mind that another has been introduced by a United States Senator, generally known for his hostility to labor's interests, for the creation of a Department of Industries and Commerce. That bill proposes to absorb the Department of Labor, and creating the office of Secretary of the Department of Industries and Commerce. This measure is being urged by the "business" organizations of the country, and I have recently been appealed to in several ways to give it our support. My invariable answer has been that:

From the foundation of our Government up to the present day the representatives of business and commerce have had absolute and exclusive representation in the Cabinet and in every Department of our Government. Since the wage-earners of our country are so essential to its well-being, and since they form so large and overwhelming number of the manhood and citizenship of the United States, it does seem as if the interests and the needs of labor require a direct representative in the councils of the President. For these reasons, and numerous others unnecessary to recount here, it is recommended that we should insist upon our original position on this measure.

MARINE ENGINEERS' LICENSE.

A law was passed providing for the licensing of competent engineers in the Marine service. A provision that the certificate should not be forfeited or cancelled except for cause, such as incompetency, neglect, etc., was inserted in it. As the bill passed the House it contained a provision that the engineer had the right to refuse to work under certain conditions without thereby incurring the loss of the license. When it reached the Senate, through the instrumentality of a Senator already referred to in this report (Mr. Frye), this right was stricken out, and thus though there were some benefits secured by the passage of the law, the exercise of a lawful right, quitting employment though in safe harbor, was made one of the reasons for the annulment or cancellation of the license.

ENLISTED MUSICIANS.

As a result of correspondence and interviews with Department officers, an order has been issued which will in a large measure prevent musicians in the Government service competing with civilian musicians. Although all that is desired is not accomplished, some progress on this line has been made. With this matter properly and persistently presented, there is no doubt but what the desired end will be achieved, and thus aid our working musicians from the unfair competition of enlisted men, who are supported by the taxation upon our people.

CONVICT LABOR.

The evils of the convict labor system as conducted in many of our penal institutions of the several States are only modified to a very slight degree. However, the system now in use in the State of New York has proven the best solution thus far attained. That system provides that convicts be employed only at such work as to provide the necessities for the maintenance of themselves and the eleemosynary institutions of the State. It is urged that this system be extended to all other States as one of the best means to solve the problem. In the meantime we should endeavor to secure the passage of the bill known as the Southwick Bill, which, with slight changes would be of great advantage.

RAILROAD SAFETY APPLIANCES.

A little more than four years ago our Federation co-operated with the railroad employees brotherhoods to secure the passage of a law known as the "Safety Appliance Act," passed March 2, 1893. Under the terms of the law, the railroads were required to equip all their cars with uniform couplers and train brakes, by January 1, 1898. A provision of the law gave the Interstate Commerce Commission power to grant a reasonable extension, should that be necessary. The Commission gave a hearing upon applications made. The companies asked for an extension of five years. The railroad brotherhoods' representatives, realizing under the circumstances the impossibility of immediate enforcement, consented to one year. While conceding the practicability of our fellow workers' proposition, I acquiesced in their views, but took occasion to enter a protest against the failure of the railroad companies to comply with the law, and against any undue extension of time within which they should be required to comply with its terms. An extension of two years has been granted by the Commission, with the proviso that the railroads be required to make quarterly reports of the progress they are making.

UTAH EIGHT HOUR LAW.

By your directions, the Executive Council took up the question of defending the Utah State Eight-hour Law, and the sum of \$250 was contributed toward the counsel fee. The case had recently been argued before the United States Supreme Court, but, up to this writing, a decision has not been rendered.

IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

An immigration bill passed the last Congress but was vetoed by the President. In connection with the subject I desire to report that in compliance with the order of the last convention a circular was issued to affiliated organizations and, as directed, they were requested to instruct their delegates to this convention upon the question as a whole and in its various phases. The unions which could not be represented here were advised to forward their votes upon the proposition. This was deemed advisable in order that the very large number which can not be represented here might have an opportunity of voicing their wishes upon the subject.

Inasmuch as there is no doubt that Congress will, at an early day take up this subject, our convention should define the attitude which our incoming officers shall take in regard thereto. For years our movement has been claimed to side with those who favored or opposed restriction or exclusion of immigration. There should be no equivocation as to our position on any question, much less one of such importance.

Inasmuch as our convention opens almost at the same time with the beginning of a new Congress, we should formulate and early press our demands for legislative relief. There is no doubt, if good judgment prevails in the selection of such demands as we may make, and they are persistently brought home to the attention of Congress, we shall be more successful in our efforts.

JUDICIAL INJUNCTIONS.

Several bills were introduced in Congress dealing with the evils which have grown up in recent years by the issuance of writs of injunction in labor disputes, restraining officers and members of labor organizations from performing those lawful functions which have been recognized as within the rights of the workers. Of these bills, dealing with various phases of the subject, one passed the Senate providing for trial by jury in contempt proceedings for violation of the injunction. This bill failed in the House, it is alleged, for want of time.

Within the past year the evil of these injunctions has been more fully demonstrated. In the miners' strike injunctions were issued made returnable fully seven weeks after the writ was issued, evidently with the purpose of crippling the efforts of the miners' officials, and our fellow unionists who co-operated with them, in the hope that by the time the writ was made returnable the strike would be ended. Though the injunctions were frequently ignored and violated, the companies or courts deemed it prudent to avoid arresting the men for contempt.

While the bill which passed the Senate, if enacted into law, would obviate a great wrong (namely, by providing for a trial by jury), yet it is deemed entirely inadequate and insufficient. We not only demand the right of trial by jury for any offense charged, but also that we, as workers and citizens, shall not be restrained in the exercise of our lawful and natural rights. Courts do not and can not issue injunctions restraining persons from committing crimes or misdemeanors and should not when there is another complete remedy at law.

The police power is presumed to be a preventative, and, when that is insufficient, the arraignment at the bar of justice to answer for offenses is the means by which the State seeks its safety and the maintenance of its dignity. It is but just that the workers insist upon being regarded as equals before the law, and that in their activity to prevent infringement upon their rights, and their hopes and struggles to maintain their manhood, extra-judicial proceedings should not lie against them as is now the case by the use, or, more properly stated, abuse, of the powers of the courts in the issuance of writs of injunction. Your attention is respectfully called to that portion of a letter recently written and presented to the President of the United States, published in the December *American Federationist*.

It would seem that the bill introduced in the Senate January 24, 1896, and known as S. 1750, covers the matter in point completely, since it makes it unlawful for any court to issue a restraining order against any labor organization, its officers or members, in any manner affecting their full freedom to peacefully and quietly quit the services of any person or corporation at any time they may see proper to do so.

BOYCOTTS AND COURT DECISIONS.

Recently one of the branches of the Federal Courts decided by a majority vote that the boycott is illegal. Whether the decision rendered is applicable to all cases or simply to the one immediately under consideration has not yet fully transpired. It is manifest that the workers should have the same right which other citizens enjoy—the right which neither constitutions grant nor courts can deny—the right to stand by our friends, patronize our sympathizers and co-operators, and to withhold our patronage from those who are antagonistic to us and our cause, and the further right to acquaint our people with our preferences. While there is no desire here to argue in favor of our rights, we should demand the change of any law which curbs the privilege and the right of the workers to exercise their normal and natural preferences. In the meantime, we should proceed as we have of old, and wherever a court shall issue an injunction restraining any of our fellow workers from placing a concern hostile to labor's interest on our unfair list; enjoining the workers from issuing notices of this character, the further suggestion is made that upon any letter or circular issued upon a matter of this character, after stating the name of the unfair firm and the grievance complained of, the words,

"We have been enjoined by the courts from boycotting this concern," could be added with advantage.

In connection with this subject it is well to bear in mind that this weapon of labor is most potent, and one which should be exercised with the greatest degree of care, and with an intense purpose to be absolutely just. An unjust or inconsiderate boycott does more to injure the cause of labor than a hundred victories achieved through its agency. Whenever an application has been submitted to headquarters an investigation was instituted, and the concern complained against given an opportunity to state its version of the matters in dispute. In no case has a concern been placed upon our "We Don't Patronize" list until it has had an opportunity to be heard in its own defense. In each of the letters to employers upon these subjects it was accompanied by the suggestion of an adjustment mutually honorable and advantageous, and tendering, if necessary, our good offices to accomplish that purpose.

At times organizations have objected to the time between submitting the application and the approval of the same by the Executive Council. They have labored under the impression that their simple statement of their complaint should be sufficient, and have, therefore, been impatient with what they regard as unnecessary delay. They fail to realize that we must not only possess the might, but that we must also be in the right. Then again it is pleasing, and especially worthy of your attention, that of the applications submitted fully one-third were adjusted through the intervention of the American Federation of Labor office without the necessity of placing the concerns upon our unfair list.

GREAT BRITAIN'S ENGINEERS' STRIKE.

Of course no one taking an active part in the labor movement of our country can be ignorant of the great struggle which our fellow workers, the engineers of Great Britain, are making against a powerful combination of employers. Some time ago we were requested to issue an appeal to organized labor of America to financially aid our struggling brothers. The Executive Council deemed it unwise to issue an official appeal, owing to the long era of industrial depression from which the workmen of our country suffered, the sacrifices borne by our men and organizations to sustain those engaged in trade disputes, and, further, the more than generous responses which our fellow workers were then making in aid of our miners. Some of our own unions had appealed to us for financial aid, which we regretted we were not in a position to render. These reasons also deterred us from issuing an appeal for our men. We realized that an appeal would have brought little tangible results. We felt that to issue an appeal for workers of another country when we were in no position to do so for the fellow workers of our own, would have been productive of equally poor results and would have been resented by our own affiliated organizations. When the further fact is borne in mind that the American and Canadian branches of engineers had, by vote, refused some time ago to affiliate with the American labor movement, it may be easily understood that this appeal would scarcely have been responded to as we would have hoped. However, as editor of the *American Federationist*, I published the appeals of our British fellow unionists and urged that contributions be sent to our fellow workers. I am informed that, under the circumstances, very fair responses were received. It is well to add that the appeals issued from the British Engineers' officers were duplicated at the office of the Federation and sent broadcast to the press.

The contest is still on, and our British brothers are making one of the most heroic labor struggles of the age. They are deserving of our fraternal consideration, and if any means can be devised by this convention by which they can be aided, financially or otherwise, it should certainly be performed.

FRATERNAL DELEGATES.

It has been our constant aim to cultivate the most fraternal relations between the organized workers of the world. We attest that by receiving from and sending delegates to the British Trade Union Congress, and we would, no doubt, extend this field of our operations if circumstances permitted. Our fraternal delegates to the British Trade Union Congress, held at Birmingham this year, will submit their reports to you and make certain recommendations in which I certainly concur and commend to your careful consideration.

Today we have with us the responses of our British fellow workers in the persons of the fraternal delegates, Mr. J. Havelock Wilson, and Mr. Edward Harford, to whom, in behalf of the organized labor movement of our country, we extend a cordial and hearty welcome among us. We sincerely hope the time may not be far distant when we shall have our regular Congresses, international in character and fact, as well as in name, where the hopes, the yearnings, the aspirations of the toiling masses of the world for justice may find full and free expression, when we may aid in the ushering in of that time dreamed of by philosophers, sung by poets, and achieved by the workers:

"When the war drums beat no longer and the battle flags are furled
In a Parliament of man, a Federation of the World."

AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

It will be no unpleasant news to you to learn that the *American Federationist*, our official magazine, is now upon a paying basis; that the balance is on the right side of our accounts. It should be remembered that before its publication at least \$2,000 a year was expended for the issuance of circulars and financial reports, the saving in this regard and the devotion of this money to other and useful purposes, in the interest of our movement, the advantage of its publication, even from a financial standpoint, can be appreciated. It should be stated also that the venture was started during the early period of the industrial stagnation, hence the present standing assures its future unqualified success.

But, apart from this feature, our publication is a medium of official communication. It is taken as an authority upon every question from the view-point of the trade unionist. In the three years of the four of its existence, in which I have had editorial charge, I have endeavored to devote to it the very best efforts of which I was capable, considering the manifold other duties which devolved upon me. And while keeping its columns open for those who had another view to present, I, at all times, found it a pleasure as well as my duty to defend, protect, and espouse to the uttermost, the cause of true trade unionism, true trade union law, true trade union ethics, policy and tactics.

DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.

Perhaps it would not be out of place to briefly refer to the fact that the duties of the office of President are increasing and manifold every day. As far as it is possible it has been my aim to respond to the call of our fellow unionists, and go to the points where my services could avail and be of assistance to them. You can readily see, however, that it is impossible to comply with all requests, but with the aid of the members of the Executive Council, this has been covered better than in any previous year. I have met with large numbers of our fellow workers in their unions, in conference with their employers, have acted as mediator in a number of instances, and as arbitrator in several. It is gratifying to be enabled to say that a large degree of success for our fellow unionists has been attained in this way. Addresses, mass meetings, and public lectures have been delivered. The office is in constant receipt of request for information upon all conceivable subjects, from students of political economy in the colleges and elsewhere; writers upon labor and the social problem. State and National legislators, are in quest of information upon laws in the interests of labor; the demand, theories, policy, history of the labor movement. As an evidence of the large correspondence conducted, mention may be made that only such letters which are regarded as sufficiently important to require preservation, amounting to about one-third of the actual correspondence are copied; yet there were 3,088 pages of closely typewritten letters which were copied, or a total of more than 10,000 letters written by me during the year. This, taken together with the nature of the correspondence with our own fellow workers and friends, and those in Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada, Mexico, and Japan; and, also, the editorial writing for and management of the *American Federationist* it is not far-fetched when it is stated that the President finds his time fully occupied if he desires to perform the duties of his office faithfully and well.

LEADERSHIP OF LABOR.

It has been my constant aim to organize and urge organization among our fellow workers; to reflect and carry out in spirit as well as in letter, the actions, the thoughts, the resolves of our movement. If the experience gained has given me the opportunities to present any line of action calculated to advance the interests of labor, I have from time to time recommended it to our annual conventions and through our magazine; but it seemed to me that it was both unsafe and dangerous to the cause which we have the honor and responsibility to represent, for your President to, perhaps, conceive a notion, a theory, or a plan not previously approved by you, and with that assume what the world calls "leadership." The conception in the trade union movement of leadership implies followers, and they who follow a leader must obey him implicitly. It is the establishment of a new master over men; it is the creation of a tyrant against which the history, the struggles, and the trend of the trade union movement revolt. Our movement is the great movement of the workers recognizing the sovereignty of each to obtain the largest amount of success with the least possible government; that the whole are wiser than any one, no matter whether his title be president or czar.

ELECT OFFICERS BY REFERENDUM.

Inasmuch as one of the aims of our organization is to place the largest degree of responsibility upon all our workers; that is, to have our movement of the workers, for the workers, and by the workers, in its fullest sense, and since the initiative and referendum, both in legislation and in the election of officers has been successfully introduced in a number of our largest and most extensive affiliated unions, the suggestion is made that the officers of the American Federation of Labor might be elected by the referendum. I am not unmindful of the many difficulties to be overcome, but it seems that a measure can be devised, by which, at least, a beginning may be made to the more general introduction of the system. Perhaps some expense may be involved in carrying out this provision, but with experience obstacles now apparently insurmountable will be easily overcome.

OUR VOLUNTEER ORGANIZERS.

As per direction of the last convention, the commissions of all organizers were revoked and a new corps organized. Of course, a large number were recommissioned, and it is a source of pleasure to be able to report that they have proven most worthy of the trust reposed in them. These men, and a few women, have proven themselves undaunted in spirit, thoroughly energetic, honest and sincere advocates and defenders of the labor cause, and self-sacrificing organizers of labor, working incessantly without reward or hope of reward, reminding one of the zealous advocates of the early civilization. I feel that this report would be incomplete and unjust without paying this poor tribute to our organizers, who so fully merit better recognition and reward for their valuable services.

GRIEVANCES, ETC.

There are a number of matters which will require your careful attention—controversies which have arisen during the year and which are simply referred to here. The respective claims of jurisdiction by the National Organizations of the Meat Cutters and Butchers v. the National Organization of Clerks; the Machinists v. the Typographical Unions; the Tailors v. the Garment Workers; the Sprinkler Fitters Unions vs. the Steam Fitters Unions; the Tile Layers Union of Washington v. the Tile Layers Unions of New York; the Musical Union v. the Fort Wayne Central Body; the Painters' dispute; the application for a charter from the Brotherhood of Paper Hangers; the application for a charter from the Uniform Police Association of Cleveland; the Steam Engineers of Boston v. the National Engineers Union; the Chicago Central Body v. the Musicians Union, and a number of other cases which will be laid before this convention or before its committees.

HEADQUARTERS CHANGED.

In pursuance to your direction, the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor were promptly transferred to Washington, D. C., where the work of our movement has been vigorously prosecuted. In no way has the location of headquarters in that city interfered with the full performance of duties on the industrial field; while, on the other hand, it has largely aided many of our affiliated organizations to promptly prevent hostile action on the part of Congress and Department officers. Many an injury to our fellow-workers has been prevented by the opportunity presented of being at the seat of government. The advantages of pressing Congressional legislation and Executive action have had little or no opportunity for demonstration, but it is confidently anticipated that better success will be attained on this line in the near future.

CONCLUSION.

Of my colleagues of the Executive Council I feel an unfeigned pleasure, as well as the performance of my duty, to express my high appreciation both of their ability, their worth, and the entire unanimity with which they have given me their counsel and co-operation. These fill me with a deep sense of my obligations to them.

To the officers of our affiliated national and international unions, in fact, to all with whom I have had official or personal correspondence, communications, or interviews, they have been of the most fraternal and cordial character.

Of course, in a report such as this, it is entirely out of the question to even refer to, much less recount and review, the work performed during the year. Much of it is matter of detail of administration.

For more details in regard to the work performed in the interest of our movement, your attention is respectfully referred to the report of the Executive Council which will be submitted.

I have endeavored however, as briefly as possible, to give a statement of my stewardship of labor's interests for the year. While conscious of my shortcomings, I can say that no act of mine has been done, no effort left untried, but which promised to bring about more thorough organization and affiliation among our workers, a true appreciation of the wrongs from which all suffer, the rights of which are denied, the goal of our ambition, and the means by which they can be attained.

In the hope that the toilers of our country may rally 'round the banner of the unions, entwining hearts and hopes and gathering to us all that is good and true and noble in the attainment of justice now, and a higher civilization in the time to come, I am,

Fraternally yours,

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
President of the American Federation of Labor.

Referred to Committee on President's Report.

At 12:45 p. m., the convention adjourned to meet at 2:15 o'clock.

FIRST DAY—Afternoon Session.

Convention called to order at 2.15 by Pres-
ident Gompers.

Roll call taken.

Absent—Kline, Valentine, Schmalz, Miller,
O'Dea, Kleinheinz, and Spencer.

Secretary's report was then read.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the Members of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Comrades and Fellow Workers: I have the honor to submit to you a report of the receipts and expenses of the fiscal year, beginning November 1, 1896, and ending October 31, 1897.

The receipts show an increase of \$2,349.74 over those of the previous year. Deducting the one-cent assessment collected, there still remains an increase, while the balance on hand is \$473.91 less. An extra amount expended in organizing readily explains the reduction of the balance on hand, and, as a result of said expenditure, the increase of membership during the past year is encouraging, 34,280 new members having been added to the grand total—the greater portion of this increase occurring during the last four months. The reports from our organizations point to even better and greater results for the ensuing year.

The heaviest items of expense incurred, amounting to \$3,593.37, were naturally for the purpose for which the American Federation of Labor exists—ORGANIZATION. Of that amount \$2,004.45 was used in sending organizers among the miners during their great and successful strike.

Other appropriations were: Fraternal delegates to the British Trades Union Congress; United Mine Workers of America; your legislative Committee; for the defense of the eight-hour law in Utah; Engineers, Firemen, Pumpmen, and Mine Mechanics; Northern Mineral Mine Workers; Amalgamated Woodworkers International Union; Slate Roofers, No. 6879, Atlanta, Ga.; Jacksonville (Fla.) Central Labor Union.

Following is a report of receipts and expenses by months for the year, which have been published in detail in the *American Federationist*, and a copy forwarded to each union:

RECEIPTS.

	Per Capita	Supplies	Assessment	Federationist
November, 1896	\$ 853 87	\$ 135 30	\$ 271 09
December, 1896	999 55	316 91	279 29
January, 1897	153 23	393 95	151 53
February, 1897	495 61	246 28	40 00	46 54
March, 1897	712 09	372 86	680 91	237 78
April, 1897	1,079 49	308 94	422 13	34 10
May, 1897	535 49	308 66	106 42	483 96
June, 1897	829 20	296 06	75 51	215 67
July, 1897	451 56	237 89	52 03	262 17
August, 1897	602 68	299 66	310 36	56 08
September, 1897	504 84	250 71	36 00	584 70
October, 1897	2,428 49	368 28	265 67	794 48
Totals	\$9,646 10	\$3,535 50	\$2,049 93	\$3,408 39

EXPENSES.

	General.	Federationist.
November, 1896	\$ 1,235 93	\$ 229 96
December, 1896	2,002 72	208 84
January, 1897	1,306 40	245 29
February, 1897	763 88	4 15
March, 1897	1,364 10	585 37
April, 1897	1,047 50	217 59
May, 1897	557 06	188 33
June, 1897	979 29	238 69
July, 1897	1,691 36	180 01
August, 1897	1,547 32	256 80
September, 1897	1,689 79	521 77
October, 1897	1,833 61	218 16
Totals	\$16,018 96	\$3,094 87

RECAPITULATION.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, November 1, 1896	\$4,168 35
Per Capita Tax	9,646 10
Supplies	3,535 50
Assessment	2,049 93
Federationist	3,408 39
	<u>\$22,808 27</u>

EXPENSES.

General	\$16,018 96
Federationist	3,094 87
	<u>\$19,113 83</u>
Balance on hand.....	\$ 3,694 44

Following is a grouping, as near as possible, under their several heads, of the detailed monthly expenses:

Appropriation to United Mine Workers, for per capita tax.....	\$ 560 00
Utah, for defense of the constitutionality of eight-hour law.....	250 00
Engineers, Firemen, Pumpmen, and Mine Mechanics, 6745.....	200 00
Northern Mineral Mine Workers, for per capita tax.....	105 00
International Woodworkers, for organizing in Northwest.....	100 00
Slate Roofers, 6879.....	25 00
Jacksonville, Fla., Central Labor Union, for per capita tax.....	10 00
Two delegates to British Trade Union Congress.....	575 00
Salary of Samuel Gompers, President, twelve months.....	1,800 00
Salary of August McCraith, Secretary, two months.....	250 00
Salary of Frank Morrison, Secretary, ten months.....	1,250 00
Salary of John B. Lennon, Treasurer.....	100 00
Entertainment of English delegates at Cincinnati Convention.....	\$ 84 00
Traveling and hotel expenses, President and Secretary, attending Cincinnati Convention	73 70
Rent of Odd Fellows Hall.....	135 00
Assistant Secretary of Cincinnati Convention.....	45 00
Sergeant at Arms.....	21 00
Messenger.....	21 00
Printing daily proceedings Cincinnati Convention, and 2,500 bound copies.....	626 73
Rent of offices, Indianapolis and Washington.....	420 00
Premium for insurance of \$2,000 on office furniture and supplies.....	12 00
Expense moving office furniture and supplies from Indianapolis to Washington, including Convention supplies.....	345 50
Legal services.....	22 12
Auditing books.....	72 50
Aug. McCraith, expenses to Boston and one-half month's salary.....	40 50
Newspapers for office.....	89 00
Testimonial to August McCraith, resolutions.....	14 24
Congressional work.....	15 00
Typewriter and cabinet desk.....	421 00
Organizing literature and printing.....	127 50
Supplies for affiliated unions.....	567 46
Office supplies.....	1,347 76
Postage and envelopes.....	156 48
Expressage.....	642 20
Telegrams.....	216 19
Organizing expenses.....	219 53
Stenographers.....	2,266 39
Office boy.....	1,193 91
Janitor.....	313 67
Light for office.....	31 00
Traveling expenses of President.....	26 89
Traveling expenses of Secretary.....	449 92
Hall rent and expenses of President Gompers and First Vice-President McGuire, organizing Chicago Federation of Labor.....	56 45
Committee on Emerson Shoe.....	115 50
Attending Executive Council meetings:	12 60
P. J. McGuire, First Vice-President.....	
James Duncan, Second Vice-President.....	63 00
James O'Connell, Third Vice-President.....	61 20
M. M. Garland, Fourth Vice-President.....	188 75
John B. Lennon, Treasurer.....	108 50
Miscellaneous.....	90 55
Expenses, publishing American Federationist, twelve months.....	80 22
	<u>3,094 87</u>
Total.....	\$19,113 83

Following is a comparative statement for the past ten years:

	1888.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 25 95	
Receipts	4,512 55	
	<u>\$ 4,538 50</u>	
Expenses.....	3,933 68	
	<u>\$ 604 83</u>	

1889.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 604 83
Receipts.....	6,838 40
Expenses.....	\$ 7,443 23
	6,578 33
	\$ 864 90
1890.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 864 90
Receipts.....	23,849 74
Expenses.....	\$ 24,714 64
	21,070 57
	\$ 3,644 07
1891.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 3,644 07
Receipts.....	17,702 36
Expenses.....	\$ 21,346 43
	13,190 07
	\$ 8,156 36
1892.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 8,156 36
Receipts.....	17,834 51
Expenses.....	\$ 25,990 87
	18,324 69
	\$ 7,666 18
1893.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 7,666 18
Receipts.....	20,864 62
Expenses.....	\$ 28,530 80
	21,383 36
	\$ 7,147 44
1894.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 7,147 44
Receipts.....	15,346 43
Expenses.....	\$ 22,493 87
	17,302 08
	\$ 5,191 79
1895.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 5,191 79
Receipts.....	13,751 75
Expenses.....	\$ 18,943 54
	15,612 42
	\$ 3,331 12
1896.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 3,331 12
Receipts.....	16,290 18
Expenses.....	\$ 19,621 30
	15,452 95
	\$ 4,168 35
1897.	
Balance on hand.....	\$ 4,168 35
Receipts.....	18,639 92
Expenses.....	\$ 22,808 27
	19,113 83
	\$ 3,694 44

AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

The *American Federationist*, during the past year, has been increased in size an average of three pages per issue being added. A persistent and successful effort has been made to increase the subscription list and collect from delinquents; also, to secure advertisements for the paper, which was fairly successful. The cost of printing was materially increased, owing to a higher union scale of prices. The receipts however, exceed the expenses, and for the first time in three years a surplus is reported, which is sufficient to cover the deficits of 1895 and 1896, and leave a small surplus at the commencement of the current fiscal year.

RECEIPTS.

Advertising.....	\$ 2,883 62
Subscriptions.....	307 68
Copies.....	143 89
Miscellaneous.....	73 20
	\$ 3,408 39

EXPENSES.	
Printing.....	\$ 2,305 43
Commission on advertising.....	640 35
Contributed articles.....	72 20
Miscellaneous.....	76 89
	\$ 3,094 80
Excess of receipts over expenses.....	\$ 313 52

RECAPITULATION.		
	Surplus.	Deficit.
1895.....		\$ 31 17
1896.....		182 57
1897.....	\$313 52	
	\$313 52	\$213 67
Total surplus, 1897.....		\$ 99 85

STRIKES.

An effort was made to secure definite information as to the gains and losses unions sustained by strikes. While the information obtained does not cover all the strikes and lockouts, yet the results achieved by those reported are more than favorable to the strike as a weapon to be used when all other methods fail to procure proper award for labor.

A careful compiling of the reports show that 276 strikes were officially noticed, involving 164,872 workers, and that out of this number 189 were won, thirty-one compromised and thirty-three lost. The number of persons benefited was 165,407 and 940 did not receive a substantial benefit. It will readily be seen that the thirty-three strikes lost were minor ones, for the reason that so few failed of benefit.

BOYCOTTS.

The result of trade unionists refusing to purchase non-union products was also covered to a slight degree, and facts adduced prove such refusal to be a potent factor to sustain and increase the numerical strength of unions using the label, and clearly demonstrate and evidence that our fellow workers should persistently demand and advocate the purchasing of products bearing the stamp of our fellow unionists.

The following is a condensed report culled from the reports received from affiliated unions:

NATIONAL.

- Bicycle Workers—Prevented reductions in wages and effected one compromise.
- Boilermakers—Won three strikes; compromised one, and lost three. Increase in wages secured in Buffalo and reduction of one hour on each day. Persons involved, 300; benefited, 221; not benefited, seventy-nine. Boycotts pending, three.
- Brewery Workers—Won two strikes and two boycotts and gained the nine-hour workday.
- Brickmakers Alliance—Won four strikes. Gain in wages, about 15 per cent. All working eight hours.
- Cigarmakers—Won forty-seven strikes and eleven pending final report; compromised five, and eight pending; lost four. Gained in retention of strict union principles and shops; better apprentice laws and demand for labeled goods. Loss during the year, comparatively none. Number of persons involved, 2,927; benefited 2,686; not benefited, forty-three. Won three boycotts; lost none; pending fifteen. Advantages gained, the mere fact of the union's existence prevented reductions in wages.
- Coopers—Gained in membership. Had one strike; lost one.
- Elastic Goring Weavers—Prevented reduction in wages. One boycott pending.
- Electrical Workers—Won twenty-five strikes; lost none. Total gain in wages, 25 to 50 cents per day in three cities and gained eight hours in five. Gained in membership and received recognition and secured agreements in twelve cities. Advantages gained without strikes were agreements limiting one helper to every two journeymen, the custom being three or four helpers to every journeyman.
- Granite Cutters—Won thirteen strikes; compromised one; lost one; gained in wages in seven, and secured reductions of hours in three; resisted reduction in wages in seven instances and in five were successful in securing a refusal to work with members in bad standing; lost one strike against reduction; locality now non-union. Scabs secured from New York and Boston padrone agents.
- Horseshoers—Won four strikes; lost none; pending one; number of persons involved, 900; number of persons benefited, 720; gain in wages in four of from 25 to 50 cents per day. Scabs were secured in St. Louis, Detroit, Cincinnati, and Chicago. In New York hours were reduced from ten to twelve hours to nine. Columbus, Ohio, and Denver secured the nine-hour day.
- Leather Workers—Won one strike. Gained 10 per cent in wages.
- Machinists—Won thirty strikes, compromised six, and lost one; declared for eight-hour workday to take effect May 1, 1898; prevented the running of two machines by one man; also prevented introduction of piece-work system. No losses. Number of persons involved in strikes, 1,500, number benefited, 5,000. Won two boycotts; pending, two. Advantages gained—advances in wages, reductions prevented, and doing away with overtime.
- Metal Polishers—Strikes won, four; number pending, four; number persons involved, 1,384; number benefited, 1,000. Won three boycotts; five pending. Advantages gained—recognition, which prevented reductions in wages; other concessions also. Prevented cuts threatened of from 10 to 22 per cent.

- Musicians—Report a gain in membership of over 25 per cent.
- Patternmakers—Won one strike; compromised one; lost two. The nine-hour workday is no longer general in Pittsburgh, though it is not totally lost. Influence of organization prevented reductions in wages, many of which were threatened.
- Printers—Won sixteen strikes and lockouts; lost ten; twenty-two pending. Number of persons involved, 514; benefited, 117; number persons displaced, 217. Number involved in pending strikes, 180. Scabs secured usually from country or unorganized towns.
- Retail Clerks—Secured reduction of fourteen hours per week. Organized forty-three locals.
- Seamen—Gained \$5 per month in wages on Pacific coast. No gain on Atlantic.
- Spinners—Report shows slight gain in wages in two districts. One strike involving twenty persons.
- Tailors—Won eighteen strikes; three compromised; three lost. Gained in wages 10 per cent for about 900 members. Number involved 1,150; benefited 900; not benefited, 250. Won five boycotts; lost none; pending, two. Advantages gained, without strikes 750 members secured from 5 to 10 per cent advance in wages.
- Slate Quarrymen—No strikes or boycotts; condition normal.
- Textile Workers—No strikes or boycotts; slight advantages gained.
- United Mine Workers of America—One general strike and five state strikes. Gained good compromise. Total gain in wages average about 22 per cent. Aside from advances in wages, the greatest gain is favorable legislation in many of the States, together with an increased membership. Number of persons involved in strikes, 150,000; fully benefited 80,000; partially benefited the remainder.
- Woodworkers—Won one strike; compromised one; preventing a reduction in one, and in the other preventing reduction in one class of work and not in the other. Number of persons involved 150; number benefited fifty. Won one boycott; pending four. Advantages gained—secured the nine-hour day, and abolished piece work, and raised wages in custom shops; unionized sixty or seventy shops, and raised wages in many planing mills.

LOCAL.

- Casting Dressers, 6844—One strike. Struck against reduction from \$2.25 and \$2 to \$1.35, and against working overtime at the end of each month.
- Coal Employees, 6580—Secured an increase of \$1 per week. Won two boycotts.
- Draymen and Expressmen, 6673—Won three boycotts; one pending.
- Drillers, Tool Dressers and Rig Builders, 6951—Increased wages from \$2 to \$2.50 to \$3 and \$4 without a strike.
- Encaustic Tile Lavers, 6820—Gained \$1 per day without a strike; work nine hours per day.
- Federal Labor, 6623—Gained two hours per day without a strike; benefited, 125 persons.
- Federal Labor, 6729—Won two strikes, compromised one; gained 25 cents per day in wages; number persons involved, 200; benefited, 200.
- Federal Labor, 6736—Gained 30 cents per day in wages in one strike, and men given more recognition than before they were organized.
- Federal Labor, 6801—Won three strikes; one pending; gained 25 cents per day in wages and secured half an hour reduction in hours per day; persons involved and benefited, 100. Won four boycotts; one pending. Had oil reduced 20 cents per gallon and blacksmithing 10 cents per month. Scabs secured from Kansas City, Mo.
- Federal Labor, 6804—Gained reduction of one hour and fifteen minutes per day; number benefited, 100. Gained one boycott.
- Firemen's 6130—Gained one strike; lost one. Gain in wages, \$2 to \$3 per week. Hours reduced from ten to eight and from twelve to eight and from nine to eight. In hotels where the eight-hour day was gained, \$10 per month advance has been secured.
- Flour and Cereal Millmen's, 6642—Lost one strike.
- Flour Mill Laborers, 6917—Gained in wages and unionized two out of five mills.
- Holders On, 6834—Pending, one strike and one boycott; scabs received from Bay City, Mich.
- Holders On and Heaters, 6773—Won five strikes; compromised two; gained 25 cents per day in wages and reduction of one hour; number of persons involved, eighty-seven; number benefited, eighty-five; number not benefited, two.
- Iron Workers' Helpers, 6709—Secured recognition for union and time and a half for overtime, which is equivalent to abolition of overtime.
- Iron Workers' Helpers, 6715—Gained one strike; secured 10 per cent increase in wages.
- Laborers, 6860—Won one strike and one lockout; gained 25 cents per day in wages on street work.
- Lathers, 6851—Gained one strike; secured an advance in wages from 13 cents to 16 cents per bunch; number of persons involved, twenty-seven; number benefited, twenty-seven.
- Miners, 6395—Secured the eight-hour workday.
- Nailmakers, 6571—Gained 10 per cent in wages in one strike; number of persons involved, 125; number benefited, 125.
- Sprinklers, 6840—Gained eight hours and recognition of the union for firemen working in the Metropolitan district.
- Sprinkler Fitters, 6087—Gained one strike; secured an increase of wages and the eight-hour day. Number of persons involved, 100; benefited, 150.
- Structural Iron Workers, 5723—Compromised one strike at a 10 per cent reduction; number of persons involved, 300; number benefited, 117; not benefited, 183. Have since secured an increase of 10 per cent to skilled men without a strike.
- Tin Plate Openers, 6914—Compromised one strike; gained in wages 15 per cent; secured reduction of two hours. Scabs secured from Richmond, Ind., Springfield, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo.

Tin Plate Workers, 6908—Gained one strike; secured 15 per cent increase in wages, secured recognition of union. Number of persons involved, 280; number benefited, 225; not benefited, 8.

Zinc Workers, 6500—reduced the hours from 12 to 8 for some of the members.

LABEL.

The use of the union label to assist in organizing wage-earners is rapidly on the increase. Label leagues are being formed in all the cities containing unions that have adopted a label. The agitation is being pressed persistently, and with results that promise well for the future. The unions using labels are: Cigarmakers, Boot and Shoe Workers, Hatters, Printers, Garment Workers, Bakers, Carriage and Wagon Makers, Gold Beaters, Horse-Nail Makers, Sardine Packers, Salmon Fishermen, Tobacco Workers, Tailors, Moulders, Woodworkers, Cracker Bakers, Coopers, Flour Mill Employees, Brewery Workers, Mattress Makers, Broom Makers, Laundry Workers, Teamsters, The Clerks, Barbers, and Waiters have cards and the Agents have a badge. The indications are that the ensuing year will see several national organizations with a label or stamp to assist the public to discriminate in favor of the products of their members.

ORGANIZING.

During the year 217 charters have been issued to National, State, Central, Local, and Federal Labor unions.

Of this number eight were granted to the following National and International Unions: International Union of Bicycle Workers, Coremakers International Union, Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, National Union of Steam Engineers, United Brotherhood of Paper Makers of America, National Gold Beaters' Union, International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, United Association of Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters, and Steam Fitters Helpers.

Two charters for State federations were issued to Ohio and Missouri.

Eighteen to Central Labor Unions, as follows: Alton (Ill.) Asheville (N. C.) Binghamton (N. Y.), Blue Island (Ill.), Chattanooga (Tenn.), Chicago (Ill.), Fort Wayne (Ind.), Grand Rapids (Mich.), La Crosse (Wis.), Meadville (Pa.), Munising (Mich.), Muscatine (Iowa), Oil City (Pa.) Portsmouth (Ohio), Springfield (Mass.), St. Joseph (Mo.), St. Paul (Minn.), Zanesville (Ohio).

Over five hundred applications for unions have been forwarded by our organizers to the different affiliated national unions.

The number of organizers engaged in the work is larger than ever before in the history of the American Federation of Labor, and many of them have done such good work in their separate jurisdictions that it could not be exceeded if they devoted their entire time, under pay.

The wage-earners are under many obligations to the organizers, who sacrifice time, money, and social pleasures, to assist in bettering the condition of their fellow workers.

PER CAPITA TAX.

Prompt financial assistance would be of great assistance to sustain and strengthen isolated local union. The per capita tax received by the American Federation of Labor is inadequate to meet many of the urgent demands received. For that reason, it would appear that an increase of per capita tax from affiliated organizations should be carefully considered. In many instances local unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor evince a reluctance to join the national of their craft, giving as a reason, the increase cost in per capita tax. I, therefore recommend that the per capita tax for local and Federal Labor Unions to the American Federation of Labor be increased from one cent to five cents per member per month.

CONCLUSION.

Commissioned for the first time as Secretary of our grand organization, I have endeavored to perform the duties thereof to the very best of my ability, with a singleness of purpose to further the cause in which we are enlisted. I beg to attest my sincere appreciation for the aid, advice, and fraternal consideration extended to me by my colleagues of the Executive Council, both in our office and in our correspondence. Fraternally submitted.

FRANK MORRISON,

Secretary American Federation of Labor.

Referred to Committee on Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's report was then read.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

NOVEMBER 1, 1896, TO NOVEMBER 1, 1897.

To the Officers and Delegates of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

The close of another year finds the trade union, with its objects, aims, and aspirations for the uplifting of the masses with a stronger hold than ever before, on the masses of our people. The oft repeated cry that trades unionism is dead, has been less often heard than heretofore. In fact, the carpenter and critics no longer find so many dupes and willing listeners. The various ists and isms have their day, and that usually a short one, but the trade union alone stands solid through each recurring year as the one permanent and effective means by which the workers can secure a degree of protection as wage-earners, and, where the trade union fails of effective-

ness it is not the fault of trade unionism, but comes from our lack of knowledge and from the non-unionists on the outside. Each year adds to our light and reduces the number of non-unionists. Therefore I bid you be hopeful for the years to come. Industrial problems that confront us will be properly and rightly adjusted by the trade unions as soon as we are prepared for their solution. A steadfast and continuous effort will bring its reward.

To the trade unionists of America I extend my thanks for the uniform kindness and confidence bestowed upon me. To the members of the Executive Council, I give them my kindly and fraternal greeting. To the delegates composing this convention I extend my kindest regards, and hope the work done by them will be a milestone upon the onward and forward road of Labor's emancipation from wrong and injustice of every character.

1896.	INCOME.	1896.	EXPENSES.
Nov. 30 From Sec. McCraith.....	\$ 1,260 26	Nov. 30. Paid Warrants.....	\$ 1,465 89
Dec. 31. From Sec. McCraith.....	1,646 75	Dec. 31. Paid Warrants.....	2,211 56
1897.		1897.	
Jan. 31. From Sec. Morrison.....	698 71	Jan. 31. Paid Warrants.....	1,551 69
Feb. 28. From Sec. Morrison.....	828 43	Feb. 28. Paid Warrants.....	768 03
Mch. 31. From Sec. Morrison.....	2,003 64	Mch. 31. Paid Warrants.....	1,949 47
Apr. 30. From Sec. Morrison.....	1,844 66	Apr. 30. Paid Warrants.....	1,265 00
May 31. From Sec. Morrison.....	1,434 53	May 31. Paid Warrants.....	745 39
June 30. From Sec. Morrison.....	1,416 44	June 30. Paid Warrants.....	1,217 98
July 31. From Sec. Morrison.....	1,003 65	July 31. Paid Warrants.....	1,871 37
Aug. 31. From Sec. Morrison.....	1,268 78	Aug. 31. Paid Warrants.....	1,804 12
Sept. 30. From Sec. Morrison.....	1,377 15	Sept. 30. Paid Warrants.....	2,211 56
Oct. 31. From Sec. Morrison.....	3,856 92	Oct. 31. Paid Warrants.....	2,051 77
Nov. 1, 1896. Bal. on hand.....	3,168 35		
Total	\$21,808 27	Total	\$19,113 83
Total income.....	\$21,808 27		
Total expense.....	19,113 83		
November 1, 1897, balance.....	\$ 2,694 44		
November 1, 1897, in hands of Treasurer.....	\$ 2,694 44		
November 1, 1897, in hands of Secretary.....	1,000 00		
Total funds.....	\$ 3,694 44		

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN BROWN LENNON, Treasurer.

Referred to proper committee.

Vice-President McGuire called for the reading of the program.

Delegate Kreft moved that the resolutions be read by titles, and referred to the proper committees.

PROGRAMME.

Resolution No. 1.—By T. J. Elderkin, delegate International Seamen's Union:

WHEREAS, There is now under consideration a plan for the general inauguration of the Eight-hour Day, to be put into effect May 1, 1898; and

WHEREAS, The success of that movement will depend largely upon the amount of funds available for the support of those who may be temporarily disemployed; and,

WHEREAS, Experience has proved the difficulty of raising funds during the pendency of industrial disputes, and the consequent wisdom of being forearmed; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor hereby recommends to all affiliated bodies that each member therein contained contribute the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) to a fund to be known as the "General Eight-hour Day Fund;" and, further,

RESOLVED, That the said contributions be made payable to the incoming Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor not later than April 15, 1898, to be disbursed by it for the exclusive benefit of those who leave work and remain idle at the instance of the respective organizations engaged in the Eight-hour Day movement; and, further,

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council shall use its best judgment in the disbursement of the said fund, and that application by the respective organizations actively engaged in the Eight-hour Day movement for assistance in the foregoing respects shall be the authority of the Executive Council for such disbursements.

Reference withheld.

Resolution No. 2.—By John B. Lennon, delegate Journeymen Tailors Union of America:

To amend Constitution of American Federation of Labor, Article XI, Section 1. In second line change "one-fourth" to read "one-half," so that the per capita from affiliated International and National Unions shall be one-half cent per month.

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 3.—By Andrew J. Casey, delegate Lawrence (Mass.) Central Labor Union:

WHEREAS, The Government of Great Britain is exerting itself to the utmost to bring about the consummation of a treaty of arbitration between that country and the United States; and

WHEREAS, The history of Great Britain, its wars upon weaker nations, and its numerous broken treaties, have proven that Government to be unreliable; and,

WHEREAS, Said proposed treaty is in reality intended, by Great Britain, to serve as a cloak for an offensive alliance; and,

WHEREAS, Said proposed treaty demands a return of alleged offenders, political and otherwise; be it hereby

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, place itself upon record as opposed to the adoption of said proposed treaty by the Government of the United States.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 4.—By Andrew J. Casey, delegate Lawrence (Mass.) Central Labor Union:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, place itself upon record as favoring the passage, by Congress, of a bill for the institution of Postal Savings Banks.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 5.—By Millard Lloyd, delegate Illinois State Federation of Labor:

Believing that a system of savings institutions, for the use of those whose incomes are small, but whose faith in the integrity of the Government is large, would benefit in a marked degree the great mass of the Nation's population and add stability to all commercial relations; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor call upon the Fifty-fifth Congress of the United States to enact a law providing for the establishment of a system of Government Postal Savings Banks.

RESOLVED, That said proposed law should provide for the establishment and operation of postal savings banks independent of all systems of banking now in vogue in the United States, and should embody that liberal spirit that shall best conserve the interests of the greatest number.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 6.—By W. E. Klapetzky, delegate Journeymen Barbers International Union:

WHEREAS, The Journeymen Barbers International Union has adopted a "License Law," and will attempt to have the same passed by the various State Legislatures at their coming sessions; and,

WHEREAS, The purport of this proposed law is for the better protection of the craft from the disciples of the Barber College, and also regulates the apprenticeship to be served by those desiring to learn the trade and which to-day is the cause for much of the discomfort suffered by the barber; and,

WHEREAS, This law has been passed and is now operative in the State of Minnesota and is proving itself to be of untold value; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor gives its hearty endorsement to this proposed legislation in behalf of the barber craft and that they pledge themselves to do all in their power to assist in the passage thereof.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 7.—By W. E. Klapetzky, delegate Journeymen Barbers International Union:

WHEREAS, There is to-day a large number of incompetent barbers, who, finding themselves incapable of competing with the skilled members of that craft, are as a last resort, cutting prices for work to such an extent that a skilled workman can barely make living wages, and in some localities even that is impossible; and,

WHEREAS, The Journeymen Barbers International Union is using every endeavor to follow out the principles as expressed by this Federation, namely, the shortening of the hours of labor; and,

WHEREAS, This Class of incompetent workmen is so great that by their system of competition they are compelling our skilled workmen to compete with them on their own grounds, in order to gain even a pitiable subsistence, thereby compelling them to increase, instead of diminish, their hours of labor; and,

WHEREAS, It is an undisputed fact that in order that the members of the barber craft may earn living wages they must receive living prices for their work; and,

WHEREAS, This Federation stands pledged to assist all crafts who aim to better their financial condition, or to shorten their hours of labor; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That in order to carry out the precepts and principles of organized labor in general, and this Federation in particular, no member of a local, whose national or international union is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, shall patronize any barber shop charging three or five cents for a shave, or five, ten, or fifteen cents for a hair cut; and further,

RESOLVED, That as no union shop card of the barbers is displayed in a shop of this kind, the members of affiliated unions are instructed to patronize only such shops as do display the union shop card.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 8.—By W. E. Klapetzky, delegate Journeymen Barbers International Union:

WHEREAS, There are a number of organizations of barbers affiliated with Central bodies throughout the country and are receiving their support and protection, but who are not affiliated with the Journeymen Barbers International Union; and,

WHEREAS, These organizations feel that as they are already receiving the support and patronage of organized labor in their immediate locality; they need not affiliate themselves with the National body of that craft; and,

WHEREAS, This policy is in direct opposition to the policy of this Federation and is a great factor in keeping the membership of the Barbers International Union at its present standpoint; and,

WHEREAS, Believing that only by the unification of labor can we hope to bring about the desired reforms for which we are striving; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all Central bodies having a local of barbers affiliated therewith and not affiliated with the Barbers International Union, shall demand from them that they affiliate with the said International Union within thirty days, and for failure to do so, the Central body shall expel them; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the delegates from those unions, whose National or International organization is affiliated with this Federation, shall do all in their power to see that the above is enforced.

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 9.—By W. E. Klapetzky, delegate Journeymen Barbers' International Union:

WHEREAS, The conditions surrounding the occupation of a barber are daily becoming more burdensome, wages continually decreasing, and hours continually increasing in many sections of the country, caused by the unholy competition of the unorganized and unskilled members of the craft; and,

WHEREAS, To bring about a better condition of affairs, the Journeymen Barbers International Union has created the office of General Organizer for their union, in order that a better system of organization may eliminate this ruinous competition, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the incoming President of this Federation, shall, as soon as possible, issue a circular letter to the Organizers of the Federation, and instruct them to give all possible assistance to the above named General Organizer in their various localities, and to make a special effort to organize the members of the barber craft.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 10.—By W. E. Klapetzky, delegate Journeymen Barbers International Union:

WHEREAS, Information has been received from reliable sources that there are a number of independent organizations of barbers in existence; and,

WHEREAS, The Journeymen Barbers International Union desire their affiliation with that body, but do not know the names or addresses of the officers, and at this time are not in a position to bear the expenses necessary to send their organizers to the various cities; and,

WHEREAS, The Organizers of this Federation are in a position to furnish the information desired without incurring expense to themselves or this Federation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the incoming President shall give instructions to the Organizers to ascertain if there is an independent union of barbers in their districts; and should they find such to be the case, they shall ascertain the names and addresses of the officers thereof and send the information gained to the office of the President of this Federation, who in turn shall send it to the Secretary of the Barbers International Union.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 11.—By C. H. Sidener, delegate American Agents Association:

WHEREAS, The canvassing agent and solicitor, under our present system of production and distribution, is the person who places the production of the laborer on the market, and,

WHEREAS, The American Agents Association has the following pledge on its application blanks, "I agree not to handle sweat shop, prison made or goods boycotted by the American Federation of Labor." And as it is more difficult to supply the place of the agent than of the mechanic, and, as in the printing business, if the advertising agent, subscription and book agent, should quit selling the products of any firm found antagonistic to the principles of organized labor, it would assist the members of that craft, and as there is scarcely a trade affiliated under the American Federation of Labor but what would be very much benefited by a thorough organizing of the solicitors and agents selling their products; be it

RESOLVED, That a special effort be made by the organizers of the American Federation of Labor to organize the agents in their respective communities.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 12.—By C. H. Sidener, delegate American Agents Association:

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, of New York, through their various local branches, have done everything in their power to break up the local unions of the American Agents Association; and

WHEREAS, Said company has been declared unfair by the Sixteenth Annual Convention of this organization; be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor requests its organizers and all central bodies and local unions to organize local unions of the American Agents Association in their respective communities, and that we especially urge the organization of the Industrial Insurance agents of those companies now in competition with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 13.—By Coopers' International Union of North America:

WHEREAS, The Burden Iron Company, of Troy, N. Y., has entered into a contract with an employer of non-union labor to furnish them with keys in which to ship their rivets, horseshoes, etc., being fully aware that by so doing they are discriminating against union labor; and

WHEREAS, Coopers' Union No. 8, of Troy, N. Y., have placed, in self-defense, the product of the said Burden Iron Company on the unfair list, and in so doing have received the approval of organized labor in general; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Convention endorse the action of Coopers' Union No. 8, of Troy, N. Y., and that copies of these resolutions be sent to the National Horseshoers' Union, and Master Horseshoers' Union, and the American Federation of Labor, for their endorsement.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 14.—By Coopers' International Union of North America:

WHEREAS, Members of Brewery Workmen's National Union have been persistently upheld in the driving and examining of beer packages in different parts of the country by the American Federation of Labor, and by the Brewery Workmen's National Union; and

WHEREAS, We, as members of the Coopers' International Union of North America, do recognize that the work aforesaid is strictly coopers' work; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, in convention assembled, protest to the American Federation of Labor and to the Brewery Workmen's National Union against their conflicting with our rights and privileges; and further

RESOLVED, That we take steps to exercise our rights, and also that we instruct our delegate to the American Federation of Labor to use all honorable means to change the present condition of things, and restore all rights to members of the Coopers' International Union of North America.

Referred to Committee on Grievances.

Resolution No. 15.—By Coopers' International Union of North America:

WHEREAS, The coopers of Cincinnati have on various occasions tried to communicate with the Brewers' Exchange of Cincinnati, with regard to an agreement or contract to be signed by the brewers with reference to using kegs bearing stamps of the Coopers' International Union only, when such can be had; and

WHEREAS, The coopers have always met with evasive answers and misstatements by the secretary of said exchange at to the time of meeting, and all communications sent by mail have been unanswered; and

WHEREAS, The coopers were fortunate enough to find the exchange in session, but unfortunate enough to be refused admission, and were totally ignored by said exchange; and

WHEREAS, All attempts to confer with the brewers as individuals have been futile—always being referred to the exchange, thereby showing that the brewers of Cincinnati have formed a trust or combine; and

WHEREAS, All fair means have been exhausted, we now deem it advisable to look upon the brewers, individually and collectively, as antagonistic to the coopers in particular and to organized labor in general; and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the brewers of Cincinnati be placed upon the unfair list, and that all friends of organized labor be requested to refrain from using the products of the Cincinnati brewers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to each and every local affiliated with this body whose welfare will not be jeopardized by its adoption; and, further, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor place the Cincinnati brewers upon the unfair list, and notify all affiliated bodies throughout the United States.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 16.—By Coopers' International Union of North America:

WHEREAS, The Klein Cooperage Company, of Evansville, Ind., is and has been for years fighting Coopers' Union No. 12, and has not a union cooper in their employment; and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we endorse any action said union may adopt, provided it does not conflict with the Constitution, and that our delegate to the American Federation of Labor be instructed to secure, if possible, the placing of all mills patronizing said company on the unfair list, and that local Union No. 12 be requested to furnish brands of all goods made by said mills to the American Federation of Labor.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 17.—By T. J. Elderkin, delegate International Seamen's Union:

WHEREAS, There is at present pending in the United States Senate a treaty providing for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Federation of Labor that we disapprove of annexation on the following grounds:

1. That the islands are valueless, except for commercial purposes, which latter depend upon the convenience of trade with the United States, and are amply conserved by the present reciprocity relations.

2. That the distance of the islands from the United States will necessitate the expenditure of large sums for guarding and fortifying.

3. That the islands lie within the tropic zone, and are climatically unfit for the maintenance of American labor.

4. That the present labor of the islands is composed almost exclusively of Asiatic coolies, working under a system of penal contracts amounting to practical slavery.

5. That annexation would be tantamount to the admission of a slave state, the representatives of which would necessarily work and vote for the enslavement of labor in general.

6. That annexation would add to the population of the United States 50,000 Mongolian laborers, besides providing a stepping stone for the influx of large numbers more, which would make all further attempts at Asiatic exclusion impossible.

7. That the acquisition of territory lying beyond the zone of Anglo-Saxon labor is contrary to American policy and will prove a danger to our institutions, inasmuch as the labor in that territory lacks the power of self-government; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Senate to reject the treaty of annexation and to take such other steps as may be necessary to maintain amicable relations with Hawaii.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution N. 18.—By T. J. Elderkin, delegate International Seamen's Union:

WHEREAS, The recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Arago case declares that contracts to labor may be specifically enforced on shore as well as at sea, provided a statute exists to that effect; and

WHEREAS, This ruling demonstrates that the Thirtieth Amendment to the Constitu-

tion does not prohibit involuntary servitude when the contract to labor has been entered into—in other words, that the term “involuntary” applies only when a person is held to servitude without a contract, or where a contract is forced upon an employee against his will; and

WHEREAS, The state of the labor market and the disposition of the employing classes to take every advantage of the workers' necessities make it evident that this new construction of the Constitution may be taken advantage of to enslave labor; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Federation of Labor that we recognize in the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Arago case a grave danger to the personal liberties of the people, inasmuch as it affirms the power of the legislative branch to make laws for specifically enforcing contracts, the terms of which the working classes would be compelled to accept, thus depriving them of the power to initiate reforms in their own behalf, or to resist oppression; and further,

RESOLVED, That we call upon Congress and the State Legislatures to enact such measures as may be needed to give force to the evident intent of the Constitution, so that all, or any, forms of involuntary servitude, at sea, or on land, whether effected under contract or otherwise, shall be made illegal; and, further

RESOLVED, That the incoming Executive Council is hereby instructed to take such steps as may be necessary to accomplish the purpose of these resolutions.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 19.—By Central Labor Union, Washington, D. C.:

WHEREAS, Political conditions exist in the District of Columbia which deny the right of citizenship and outrage the cardinal principles of this Republic; that residents are political aliens, and under the existing government are reduced to the condition of subjects dependent upon the will and whim of an appointed triumvirate, which, by virtue of its tenure, is not responsible to the people; that every department of our District government is controlled by officials who hold place and power without our consent, and that taxes are imposed and laws enacted for our government in violation of that principle for which our fathers struggled and transmitted to us as an heirloom—the right of representation and the consent of the governed in all matters affecting the life, liberty, and property of the citizen.

“Without the franchise we are powerless to enforce any demand for the general good; petitions are unheeded and grievances unredressed. Therefore, believing, that we of right should be free and enjoy all the rights and privileges of other citizens, we appeal to those of the great industrial brotherhood to aid us in our efforts to secure the franchise.”

RESOLVED, “That the delegate from the Central Labor Union” be instructed to bring this matter to the attention of the American Federation of Labor and in behalf of this organization request that the representatives of organized labor and all central bodies throughout the country petition their respective Representatives in Congress to favor legislation which will secure to the residents of the District of Columbia the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 20.—By Ed. Hirsh, delegate International Typographical Union:

WHEREAS, Other enlightened nations have instituted Postal Savings Banks to safeguard the small savings of the wage-earning class, with good results in every instance; and,

WHEREAS, The labor organizations of the United States are unanimously in favor of legislation by Congress for the establishment of Postal Savings Banks; and,

WHEREAS, The press and pulpit unite in pointing out the benefits, moral and material, that would inure to the wage-workers of the country from the adoption of such a system; and

WHEREAS, Workingmen are told at every recurring election that their legitimate and practical demands would be granted by Congress when urged in an orderly and constitutional manner; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor endorses unreservedly this great reform, and calls upon Congress to enact a Postal Savings Bank law at the present session; and,

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to prepare a circular and send same to local unions, asking them to again take up the question of Postal Savings Banks at their first meeting in January, and by resolution and petition request their Senators and Representatives to vote for a Postal Savings Bank Bill; and

RESOLVED, That the labor organizations of the United States are requested to note the attitude of Senators and Representatives toward this measure.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 21.—By National Brickmakers' Alliance:

WHEREAS, The brickmakers throughout the United States of America have struggled for many years against long hours and small wages, and in order to raise their standard of wages and reduce the hours of labor, they have formed an organization known as “The National Brickmakers' Alliance,” and by affiliating with the American Federation of Labor, have become a part of the great labor movement of the world; and

WHEREAS, The said organization has adopted the union label to be placed on all brick made by its members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Federation of Labor in regular convention assembled, that we endorse said label, and do hereby request all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to endorse the same, and that they use their uttermost efforts to assist the National Brickmakers' Alliance in organizing all unorganized brickmakers throughout the country.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 22.—By William Mudge, President Northern Mineral Mine Workers' Progressive Union of America:

WHEREAS, Through the depression of trade and other unavoidable circumstances, the

Northern Mineral Mine Workers Progressive Union of America has lost a large percentage of its members, both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, The meagre wages of our craftsmen will not enable us to maintain our organization as is desirable in keeping organizers in the field; and

WHEREAS, We believe the present time to be more opportune than for years past to build up a permanent organization; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we request the American Federation of Labor to assist us with organizers, or otherwise, as they may deem expedient; and, be it further

Resolved, That we request the incoming President of the American Federation of Labor to make a tour through this iron ore district at his earliest convenience.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution N. 23.—By John B. Lennon, delegate Journeymen Tailors' Union of America:

WHEREAS, The Cincinnati Convention of the American Federation of Labor passed the following resolutions, to-wit:

"WHEREAS, The jurisdiction of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America and the United Garment Workers of America, has been and is, by a considerable part of organized labor, misunderstood, and in consequence thereof, misunderstandings have occurred, and charters have been granted by one of the above unions to workers that were properly under the jurisdiction of the other one; therefore

"RESOLVED, By the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, that we hereby recognize as the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America all custom tailors in the employ of merchant tailors in the United States and Canada, and the label of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America shall be the only label recognized as guaranteeing custom tailoring to be union made; and, further

"Resolved, That we recognize the United Garment Workers of America as having the sole and exclusive jurisdiction over all workers in the manufacturing of all clothing other than custom made, as defined in the above resolutions, and the label of the United Garment Workers of America shall be the only label recognized as guaranteeing such work as union made.

"RESOLVED, That the designation (merchant tailors) in these resolutions shall be construed to mean establishments where custom clothing is made to the measure and to order of each individual customer; therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, By the American Federation of Labor, in Convention assembled at Nashville, Tenn., that in accord with the lines of jurisdiction above set forth, as between the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America and the United Garment Workers of America, giving jurisdiction to the Journeymen Tailors of America over all workers engaged in the manufacturing of custom made clothing; therefore

"RESOLVED, That the United Garment Workers of America be, and are hereby, instructed to withdraw any and all charters held by local unions affiliated with their organization, who are engaged in the manufacturing of custom-made clothing; and, be it further

"RESOLVED, That neither of the organizations, herein set forth, shall initiate any member or retain any member heretofore initiated that properly belongs under the jurisdiction of the other organization, nor shall either of the organizations referred to issue charters or maintain charters already issued to workers who belong under the jurisdiction of the other organization."

Referred to Committee on Grievances.

Resolution No. 24.—By P. F. Doyle, delegate National Union of Steam Engineers:

WHEREAS, The American Federation of Labor at its last convention held in Cincinnati declared in favor of an Eight-hour Day, general enforcement of the same to commence May 1, 1898; and

WHEREAS, In the attempt to carry out the aforesaid policy on the date mentioned, machinery must be taken into consideration; and, believing that in the coming struggle, owing to the industrial depression on this continent, that whoever commands the machinery will control the situation, and this convention fully realizing the importance of accomplishing the purpose declared for by the previous convention, and fully understanding that to control machinery the mechanics skilled in the handling of steam boilers and engines must be thoroughly organized; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the convention herein assembled, that the officers of the American Federation of Labor be, and are hereby instructed, to make a special effort in conjunction with the officers of the National Union of Steam Engineers to organize the stationary engineers throughout the country in accordance with the laws of the Engineers' National Union.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 25.—By P. F. Doyle, delegate National Union of Steam Engineers:

RESOLVED, That the President or other officer having charge of the official Journal of the American Federation of Labor is hereby instructed not to insert in said Journal any advertising matter of any person, firm or corporation who does not employ union labor in all branches of his or their establishment.

Referred to Committee on President's Report.

Resolution No. 26.—By Willis L. Hall, delegate Denver (Col.) Trades and Labor Assembly:

To amend the constitution of the American Federation of Labor as follows:

Article V, Section 1, insert after the word "Secretary" in the second line of the printed constitution, the words "Assistant Secretary, who shall be a resident of the territory west of the Missouri river."

Add to the same article as Section 7: "The Assistant Secretary shall engage a suitable office in some city west of the Missouri river, as the annual convention shall direct, for the transaction of the business of the organization in his territory."

Article VII, add as Section 5: "The Assistant Secretary shall perform all the duties of Secretary for the territory west of the Missouri river. He shall receive such salary as the annual convention may determine, payable weekly, and shall give a bond of \$1,000 for the faithful performance of his duties."

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 27.—By National Union of United Brewery Workmen:

WHEREAS, The remains of the Knights of Labor, especially in New York and vicinity, Rochester, and Troy, N. Y., Washington, D. C., and Pittsburg, Pa., are using all possible efforts to injure the interests and the progress of the National Union of the United Brewery Workmen of the United States of America, acting in many instances as tools of unfair brewery proprietors against our local unions; and

WHEREAS, This fight been forced on the National Union of the United Brewery Workers by the demand of the American Federation of Labor to disband the Trade District of Brewery Workers in the Knights of Labor; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Seventeenth Convention of the American Federation of Labor, assembled in Nashville, Tenn., instructs the officers of the American Federation of Labor, and the affiliated international, national, and local bodies to urge their membership in New York and vicinity, Troy, and Rochester, N. Y., Washington, D. C., Pittsburg, Pa., and other places, to give their utmost moral aid to the members of the National Union of the United Brewery Workmen of the United States.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 28.—By Central Federation of Labor, Troy, N. Y.:

WHEREAS, The practical agitation of the union label is the most efficient way to promote the best interest of all wage-workers; and

WHEREAS, Label agitation, as now carried on, is spasmodic and confined to localities and separate trades, thereby losing a great amount of force that if used jointly could be utilized for the much better advantage of all; and

WHEREAS, The American Federation of Labor, being an organization composed of all trades having a label or emblem to designate their respective products; therefore we believe that a label agitation should be directed from and by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Central Federation of Labor request the President of the American Federation of Labor, at their convention, December 13, 1897, to appoint a committee to take under advisement the formulation of a plan to create a bureau of union label advertisement and agitation of unfair firms who have come under the ban of the American Federation of Labor, the supervision of said bureau to be under the management of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

1. For the purpose of creating a uniform label agitation by all unions affiliated at the same time.

2. For the purpose of issuing large posters of the unfair list, the same to be suitable for posting in committee and meeting rooms where the members of unions congregate.

3. For the purpose of issuing large posters containing the *fac simile* of the union labels of all unions affiliated; the same to be posted in all meeting rooms, etc.

4. For the purpose of issuing a small book containing a *fac simile* of all union labels, and explanation on what kind and part of goods the same are to be found.

5. For the purpose of starting by circulars

an agitation for the formation of Label Leagues in every city and village under the jurisdiction of the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, said leagues to be connected with or part of the central body in the vicinity where said leagues are formed, said leagues to pay a per capita tax to sustain said bureau.

6. For the purpose of putting in practice that oft-quoted phrase of an exchange of labels.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 29.—By Central Federation of Labor, Troy, N. Y.:

To amend Article II, Constitution of American Federation of Labor, by adding:

Section 5. To aid and encourage the sale of union label goods by creating an advertising label bureau, and forming connections with all Central Labor bodies in the United States. To amend Article XI, Section 1, by inserting in second line after the words, "per month," "International and National Unions having a Union Label, trade-mark, etc., shall pay, in addition to the regular per capita tax, one-fourth cent per member per month, for the purpose of maintaining a Union Label Advertising Bureau."

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 30.—By Cincinnati (Ohio) Central Labor Council:

WHEREAS, The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor having recently issued "An Address to the Working People of the United States," containing the following passage, to-wit:

"We further urge the citizens of our entire country to rise unitedly at the polls in every state and elect men to make and administer our laws, who will root out and make forever impossible these new forms of judicial tyranny and political pliancy which now prevail in the service of corporate wealth;" therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, That the delegate of the Central Labor Council of Cincinnati be instructed to demand in the convention of the American Federation of Labor, that the above passage be taken up under the head of 'Good and Welfare,' for general discussion, in order to give the Executive Council an opportunity to explain the meaning of the passage above referred to; and, further,

"RESOLVED, That the delegate be instructed to vote for the endorsement of political action of the working class independent from the two old political parties."

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Delegate Kidd submitted the following additional report for the Committee on Credentials: To the Officers of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Your Committee on Credentials, having examined the credentials of several delegates who failed to report at the morning session, beg leave to report favorably on the following:

American Federation of Musicians, Owen Miller, Jacob J. Schmalz, 45 votes.

Federal Labor Union 6697, Stephen S. Bonbright, 1 vote.

Mosaic and Encaustic Tile Layers 6710, Gus Schwartz, 1 vote.

Mosaic and Encaustic Tile Layers 6988, J. J. Conroy, 1 vote.

International Longshoremen, Daniel J. Keefe, 50 votes.

Connecticut State Branch, Thomas Crosby, 1 vote.

The number of delegates thus far reported is 93, and the total number of votes, 2,339.

Credentials were presented by Joseph Brickell, who was elected at a convention of Painters and Decorators, held at Cleveland, Ohio, during the present month. Mr. Brickell claimed to represent the so-called McKinney and Elliott factions. After giving the matter the most careful consideration, your committee reported favorably on the credentials of Delegate Sullivan, the representative of the organization recognized by the American Federation of Labor. But in the hope of effecting an amicable adjustment of existing differences between the so-called Elliott and McKinney factions, we would respectfully recommend that the trouble be referred to the Grievance Committee, with the view of restoring harmony and solidarity among Union Painters.

We would further report that protests have been filed against the acceptance of the credentials from the representatives of the Louisville Central Labor Union and Federal Labor Union No. 6873. We ask for further time to consider these protests.

Respectfully submitted,
R. ASKEW,
JAS. W. KLINE,
THOMAS I. KIDD.

President Gompers on retaking the chair appointed the following committees as per constitution:

Committee on Report of President—Martin Fox, Daniel J. Sullivan, Thos. F. Tracey, Andrew Furuseth, Wm. Silver.

Committee on Report of Executive Council—M. D. Ratchford, Wm. J. O'Brien, Andrew Murray, G. A. Whitaker, Edward Moore.

Committee on Report of Secretary—Roady Kenehan, Edward Hirsh, Dan'l Mahoney, I. B. Myers, Homer D. Call.

Committee on Resolutions—John B. Lennon, John C. Darnell, Jos. F. Valentine, John F. O'Sullivan, Charles H. Myers.

Committee on Laws—P. J. McGuire, James Duncan, W. B. Prescott, M. M. Garland, John Tobin.

Committee on Organization—W. E. Klapetzky, Arthur Leslie, Daniel J. Keefe, Edward J. Lynch, Jacob Schmalz.

Committee on Labels and Boycotts—James O'Connell, John S. Hedberg, John White, Fred Bazeley, Samuel Ross.

Committee on Grievances—Harry Lloyd, Thomas Elderkin, L. R. Thomas, Thos. D. Fitzgerald, John R. Moffit.

Committee on Local and Federated Bodies—W. D. Mahon, Geo. J. Bennett, Thos. J. Murphy, Jas. McCabe, Geo. H. Warner.

The Auditing Committee submitted the following report:

To the Officers and Delegates of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Your committee to audit the books and accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer, beg leave to report that after a careful and thorough examination, we find them to be correct:

The following is a summary of the receipts and expenses:

Balance on hand Nov 1, 1896.....\$ 4,168 35
Receipts during fiscal year..... 18,639 92

Total receipts.....\$22,808 27
Total expenses..... 19,113 83

Balance on hand Nov. 1, 1897.....\$ 3,694 44

We have examined a statement from the Third National Bank, of Bloomington, Ill., showing the sum of \$2,694.44 to be on deposit subject to the check of John B. Lennon, and the Secretary has the sum of \$1,000 deposited in the Riggs National Bank, of Washington, D. C.

R. ASKEW, Chairman,
JAMES W. KLINE,
THOMAS I. KIDD, Secretary,
Committee.

Delegate Elderkin moved that the report be accepted as read. Adopted.

Delegate Garland stated that L. R. Thomas, one of the appointees on the Grievance Committee, would not be present.

Delegates Lloyd and Elderkin declined to serve on the Grievance Committee because of matters likely to be brought before it from their respective cities.

President Gompers then substitutes the names of August Priestersbach, B. A. Larger, and W. J. Spencer in place of Delegates Lloyd and Elderkin and L. R. Thomas.

On motion of Delegate Tracy, the convention adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

The convention was called to order at 9:00 o'clock A. M., with President Gompers presiding.

Roll call.

Absent—Murray, Leslie, Yarnell, Myers, Larger, Crouchley, Warner, Miller, Call, O'Dea, Kleinheinz, Spence, Mahon, Chalfant, D. J. Sullivan, O'Sullivan, Noonan, McNeill, Bonbright, Welch, Murphy, Schwartz, and Bennett.

Moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with. Adopted.

Vice-President O'Connell was called to the chair, and Vice-President McGuire proceeded to read the Executive Council's report:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Nashville, Tenn., December 13, 1897.

To the Members of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Fellow Workers—The following report of your Executive Council, containing the most important matters which have commanded our attention during the year, is respectfully submitted.

We have held four meetings during the year: One at Cincinnati, two at American Federation of Labor headquarters, and one at Nashville, Tenn. Extracts of the proceedings of three meetings have been published in the *American Federationist*. The full minutes are herewith submitted for your consideration.

There have been seventy-six circular letters submitted to the Executive Council, containing 127 propositions. These consisted of such matters as were deemed necessary to obtain the approval or otherwise of the Executive Council upon applications submitted by our unions, or propositions formulated by the President; each of them having the purpose of furthering the interest of our movement.

An appeal was submitted by a number of our organizations and, whenever possible, we have rendered our decision. There are a number of cases, however, which we believe should receive the attention of this convention, and for that reason have not been decided, but referred to you without prejudice.

The report of Mr. Andrew Furuseth, the legislative representative of the Federation at the national capital has been received and deals with the subject of legislation in detail. The report is submitted to you herewith, and is deserving of your earnest consideration.

In regard to the Compulsory Arbitration Bill pending in Congress, it is covered by the President's report.

The interests of our fellow workers, so far as legislation is concerned, have received the careful attention and prompt action of our council, and much injury, which, otherwise, would have been inflicted upon our cause and

our movement, has been prevented. We have acted in all matters in full compliance with your instructions, and have, at no time, allowed anything to interfere with the full performance of our duties in all lines of activity.

We have presented a memorial to the law-making power and its administrators, insisting upon legislation in the interest of labor. We have, at all times, regarded it as our first duty to obey the instructions, and serve the best interests of labor, regardless of any opinion we may individually have held upon the subjects. A copy of the memorial is herewith submitted (See May *American Federationist*, p. 56). The other matters of legislation are fully covered in the President's report.

During the miner's strike we took every occasion to endeavor to promote the best interests of the union. Our action and motives have been attacked and our fellow-unionists have not been free from uncalled-for and unjustified abuse. It was plainly manifest that certain faddists and impracticable theorists sought to take advantage of the needs of the miners, during their strike, to deal a blow to the trade union movement under the guise of friendship for the miners. Realizing the danger to labor which their plan of action and utterances foreshadowed, the Executive Council issued an address to the working people of our country, advising them to stand faithfully by their trade unions and to follow the natural and rational trend of the trade union movement. It was the word of advice given to our workers at an opportune moment not to waiver in their faith or to allow passion to overcome their better judgment, and perhaps, by an unwise step, destroy much which has taken years of energy, struggle, and sacrifice to attain. The address is herewith submitted (see October *American Federationist*, pages 199-200.)

Learning that there had been a movement on foot to divide organized labor on geographical lines, the President entered into correspondence on the subject and the correspondence having been read at our April meeting, he was directed to print the same and forward it to the convention of the Western Federation of Miners. The same is herewith submitted as a separate document. The matter is more fully covered in the President's report, to which your attention is invited.

We beg to report that the following firms, which had been placed on our unfair list, have, through the efforts of our movement, become unionized and, therefore, removed and placed upon our fair list: Francis Jones, Lithonia, Ga., employer granite cutters; Fisher Bros., Buffalo, N. Y., brewers (this contest lasted four years, and has resulted in eighteen malt houses becoming unionized); Burager & Engel, Philadelphia, Pa., brewers; Anchor Mill Company, Superior, Wis., flour mill; Illinois Sewing Machine Company; H. S. Block & Co., St. Louis, Mo., cigar manufacturers; Crown Cork and Seal Co., Baltimore, Md.; Overman Wheel Company, Chicopee Falls, Mass., bicy-

cles; Garford Manufacturing Company, Elyria, Ohio; H. J. Heinz, Cincinnati, Ohio, pickling company; Cincinnati Brewing Company, Hamilton, Ohio; The Boston Belting Company, Boston, Mass.; A. Laux & Co., Lockport, N. Y., bookbinders; The Excelsior Shoe-case Co., Quincy, Ill., and a number of others of a local character.

The following named firms have, after due investigation and effort at adjustment, been placed upon our unfair list: Cumberland Flour Mills; Liberty Flour Mills, Nashville, Tenn. (by Coopers' International Union); Hart, Schaffner & Marx, Chicago (by United Garment Workers of America); Metropolitan Insurance Company (by American Agents' Association); E. W. Brown, Gunrock Packing Company, Eureka Packing Company, Lawrence Packing Company, Crescent Packing Company, Bucks Harbor Packing Company, Indian Cove Packing Company, of Lubech and Machias, Me., sardines (by Sardine Packers' Union and Can Solderers' Union); Berger Bed Company, A. Weigel & Co., Milwaukee, Wis., mattresses (by Mattress Workers' Union); Illinois Sewing Machine Company, Rockford Chair and Furniture Company, Rockford, Ill. (by Amalgamated Woodworkers' National Union); Seig & Walpole Bicycle Company, Kenosha, Wis. (by Bicycle Workers); Thomas Taylor & Son, Hudson, Mass., elastic goring (by Elastic Goring Weavers); The Armour Packing Company, Kansas City, Kan., P. D. Armour Company, Chicago (by Federal Labor Unions, Kansas City); Anchor Mill Company (now fair), Superior, Wis. (by Flourpackers' and Millers' National Union); H. S. Bloch & Co., (now fair), St. Louis (by Cigarmakers' International Union); Donohue & Henneberry, Chicago, and Deutche Post, Cleveland, O. (by International Topographical Union); Schneider-Trenkamp Company, Cleveland, O. (by International Association of Machinists); Consolidated Steel and Wire Company, of Cleveland, O., and Beaver Falls, Pa. (by Federated Wire Trades of America); Farar & Trefts, Buffalo, N. Y. (by Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Ship Builders); Worthington Pumping Engine Company, Brooklyn, N. Y. (by Casting Dressers' Union); Apsley Rubber Company, Hudson, Mass. (by Rubber Workers' Union and Massachusetts State Branch); Boston Belting Company (now fair), by Engineers' Union; Strong & Garfield Company, East Weymouth, Mass., Foote, Shultze & Co., Detroit, Mich. shoe manufacturers (by Boot and Shoe Workers' Union); George F. Plant Milling Company, St. Louis, Mo. (the Flour and Cereal Millmen's Union); Chicago Stamping Company, bicycles (International Association of Machinists); Larkins Soap Works, Buffalo, N. Y. (Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Ship Builders); Crown Cork & Seal Company (now fair), Baltimore, Md. (International Association of Machinists).

A large list of disputes were adjusted without the necessity of placing them upon the unfair list.

The following is the complete list of concerns now upon our "We don't patronize list:

American Biscuit Company's Biscuit; American Tobacco Company—Plug Tobacco; Battle Ax, Newshoy, Piper Heidick, Something Good, Pedro; Smoking Tobacco—Gail & Ax; Navy Honest Long Cut, Duke's Mixture, Seal of North Carolina, Ivanhoe, Greenback; Cigarettes: Duke's Cameo, Sweet Caporal, Cycle, Old Judge; Apsley Rubber Company, Hudson,

Mass.; Arena; Armour Packing Company, Chicago and Kansas City; Banner Cigar Company, Detroit, Mich.; Berger Bedding Company, A. Weigel Company, Mattresses, Milwaukee, Wis.; Balz Brewing Company, Philadelphia, Pa.; Boston Belting Company; Boston Pilot; Boston Republic; Brown Bros. Cigar Company, Detroit, Mich.; Brunswick & Balke, billiard tables; Buffalo barrels; Chas. H. Busbey's cigars, McSherrytown, Pa.; Chicago Stamping Company, manufacturers United States bicycle; Clement, Bane & Co., clothiers, Chicago; Consolidated Steel and Wire Company; Cumberland Flour Mills and Liberty Flour Mills, Nashville, Tenn.; Daube, Cohen & Co., clothing, Chicago; Derby Bicycle Company, Jackson, Mich.; Detroit Cigar Company, Detroit, Mich.; Deuschler Co., Hamilton, O.; C. Schreier, Sheboygan, Wis.; Donohue & Henneberry, printers and publishers, Chicago, Ill.; Eitel & Cassebohn's Cigars, Louisville, Ky.; Farrar & Thefts, boiler and machine works, steam engines, Buffalo, N. Y.; Foote, Schultze & Co., St. Paul, Minn.; Freie Presse, Chicago, Ill.; Fuller-Warren Stove Company, Milwaukee, Wis.; Geo. Ehret's lager beer; Geo. Mocles Cigar Company, Detroit, Mich.; Gobeill Pattern Works, Cleveland, O.; Gordon Cigar Co., Detroit, Mich.; Gormully & Jeffrey Bicycle Company, Chicago, Ill. (Rambler); Gould & Walker, boots and shoes, Westboro, Mass.; Gregory & Shaw, boots and shoes, So. Framingham, Mass.; Gross & Co., cigars, Detroit, Mich.; Hamilton-Brown Shoe Co., St. Louis; Harding & Todd, shoes, Rochester, N. Y.; Harrington & Queltette Cigar Co., Detroit; Hart, Shaffner & Marks, Chicago, Ill.; H. Dietz Cigar Co., Detroit, Mich.; Heterman Bros. Co., cigars, Louisville, Ky.; Imperial Mill Co., Duluth, Minn.; Joseph Biefeld and Siegel & Bros., clothiers, Chicago, Ill.; J. W. Losse Tailoring Company, St. Louis; Kerbs, Werheim & Schiffer, cigars, New York; Kipp Bros, mattresses and spring beds, Milwaukee, Wis.; Larkins Soap Works, Buffalo, N. Y.; Maple City Soap Works; Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.; Moeck's Cigar Co., Detroit, Mich.; Monmouth Mining and Manufacturing Co. (sewer pipe); Monmouth (Ill.) Pottery Co.; Plant Milling Co., Geo. P. Powell, Smith & Co., cigars, New York; Quincy Shoe Case Works, Quincy, Ill.; Rochester Clothiers' Exchange; Rockford Chair and Furniture Co.; Rothschild, Son & Co., bar fixtures; Royal Mantle and Furniture Co., Rockford, Ill.; Schneider-Trenkamp Company, Cleveland, O.; School Seat Co., furniture, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Sardines—E. W. Brown, Gunrock Packing Co., Eureka Packing Co., Lawrence Packing Co., Crescent Packing Co., Bucks Harbor Packing Co., Indian Cove Packing Co., of Lubech and Machias, Me.; S. F. Hess & Co., cigars, Rochester, N. Y.; Seig & Walpole, bicycles, Kenosha, Wis.; Springfield (Ill.) Elevator Milling Co.; St. Louis Brewers' Association, lager beer; Strong, Garfield & Co., East Weymouth, Mass.; Studebaker Bros. Manufacturing Co.'s carriages and wagons, South Bend, Ind.; Swift's Sure Specific, Atlanta, Ga.; Thomas Taylor & Son, Hudson, Mass.; Thos. G. Plant Shoe Co., Lynn, Mass.; Times, Los Angeles, Cal.; United States Baking Co.; Venable Bros. quarries, Lithonia, Ga.; Western Wheel Co., Chicago, Ill.; Winter Bros. Brewing Co., Iron City Brewing Co., Pittsburg, Pa.; Eberhard & Obers Brewing Co., Allegheny, Pa.; W. L. Kidder & Son Milling Co., Terre Haute, Ind.; Wm. Tegge Cigar Co., Detroit, Mich.

Worthington Pumping Engine Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Yocum Bros., cigars, Reading, Pa.

It is regularly published in the columns of the *American Federationist*, and we suggest to our fellow workers and our friends of the labor press that they carefully consult and publish the same regularly, with such revisions as are necessary from time to time. It is an injustice to a concern to keep it upon our unfair list one moment longer than absolutely necessary after having amicably adjusted existing differences.

During January, 1897, we had on our November list eighty-three firms. During the year seventeen were declared unfair by the Executive Council. Ten of this number have been adjusted and removed to our fair list. Since the conventions in the past have placed most of these concerns on the unfair list, it is submitted that greater caution in this regard should be observed in the future. We feel that, in order to attain the greatest degree of success, we should concentrate our efforts upon a few of the concerns which have proven themselves unfair. Then, again, the care and preliminary effort with which these matters are approached are more likely to bring satisfactory results.

We directed the President to retain the retiring Secretary, Mr. McCraith, for such time as would be required to close up his affairs, and the Secretary-elect, Mr. Morrison, to proceed to headquarters as soon as possible to become acquainted with the duties of his office. The President was directed to proceed to Washington at the earliest possible moment and there select offices.

The Advisory Board of the trades unions of Washington, D. C., with the Executive Council, on April 20, 1897, formed a delegation and waited upon the President and Cabinet and both Houses of Congress to demand labor legislation and the enforcement of labor laws now on the statute books.

We made several appropriations of money, as contained in the detailed reports of the Secretary and published monthly in the *American Federationist*.

We directed that a circular be issued in regard to the contending factions in the painters' trade, declaring the American Federation of Labor recognized the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators, with headquarters at Baltimore, as the *bona fide* organization.

We directed that a circular be issued to the central bodies, notifying them of the action of the Amalgamated Sheet Iron Workers, but report upon this subject by the President for his reasons in deferring the matter, meets with our approval and is submitted to you for action.

The members of the Council were deputed to attend to the Textile Workers, the Crown Cork and Seal Co., the Window Glass Workers, the Moline Federal Labor Union, the Casting Dressers, the Musicians, Printers, Tailors, Painters, Hamilton (Ohio) Brewers, and other disputes.

We were asked by our Cleveland organizer as to the advisability of organizing boys in unions, and the issuance of charter to them. We decided that this matter should be referred to the several local central bodies to act as circumstances may warrant, but that no charters should be issued to them.

It is reported that label laws have been passed in several States, and the President di-

rected to have the American Federation of Labor label, registered in such States as it is permissible.

The committee presented by the President to investigate the Emerson Shoe Company matter reported same as published in the *American Federationist* (see June issue, page 80). Substantially it is as follows: "The Emerson shoe is not, nor has it ever been, made under conditions warranting the use of the stamp of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, and it is therefore a non-union shoe."

The President was directed to withhold the issuance of a charter to the National Union of Steam Engineers until assurances were had that all local unions of that craft affiliated with the American Federation of Labor would be admitted. The assurance was given and the charter issued to the National Union of Steam Engineers, but all local unions have not yet received their charter.

A dispute arose in regard to the recognition of the traveling card of the member of one union into that of another of the same trade, or of one federal labor union into another federal labor union. The President decided that cards must be recognized. The Executive Council, at its session April 20, 1897, sustained the decision of the President.

We directed action to be taken in regard to enlisted musicians, which is more fully reported upon elsewhere.

In regard to the matter of long hours of labor, particularly the threatened evil of the introduction of overtime, we thought it essential to declare our position upon the matter, and deem it of importance for reproduction here. It is as follows:

"We advise strongly against the practice which now exists in some industries, of working overtime beyond the established hours of labor, particularly in these times, when so many unemployed are struggling for an opportunity to work. It is an instigator of the basest selfishness, a radical violation of union principles, and whether on piece work or day work, it tends to set back the general movement for the eight hour day."

We have directed that every effort be made for the thorough organization of the workers of the country and their preparation for the enforcement of the eight hour workday.

The Tin Plate Workers are more thoroughly organized, and, in several instances, have secured contracts for a year with increase of wages. An excellent effort is being made to organize the oil workers, and, owing to the intelligence of the workers and to the enlightened sentiment among a number of the employers, it is believed that the eight hour workday will be readily achieved in that trade.

A decision rendered by the President in regard to the exclusion of all others but wage-workers by our unions was indorsed.

We received an application for a charter from the Cleveland Uniformed Special Police. The application was indorsed by the Cleveland Central Labor Union and Organizer Isaac Cowan, of that city. We rejected the application, as it is not within the province of the trade union movement to specially organize policemen, no more than to organize militiamen, as both policemen and militiamen are too often controlled by forces inimical to the labor movement.

On the appeal of Birmingham Typographical

Union, No. 104 vs. the Central Labor Union of Birmingham, we decided that when a question of trade jurisdiction in dispute between two National or International Unions, a central local body has no right to suspend any local union on either side because of the position it takes in the controversy pending in support of its own national or international laws.

An interview and lengthy correspondence was had with the Rochester Brewery companies, and it was clearly shown that the companies' statements, both written and verbal, were at variance with the facts regarding wages and other conditions. A request for us to prevent the National Brewery Workmen's Union from taking such action as the interests of the men and the organization warranted was declined.

A premature and unauthorized effort was made to organize a State Branch in Kentucky, but, at our request, it was abandoned until it is properly taken hold of by the *bona fide* unions of the State.

We have endeavored to adjust differences existing between the musicians, the printing pressmen, and the sprinkler fitters and the Chicago Federation of Labor, and have been advised that, thus far, some have been successful and that others are in the course of adjustment.

We have declared our position in regard to the attack on the miners at Lattimer, and sent organizers in the hard coal field for the purpose of promoting organization as the best counter-acting influence against injustice, tyranny, brutality, and wrong.

The Executive Council have all been active in many parts of the country, addressing union and open meetings in the interest of our movement, arranged and adjusted anticipated, impending, and existing disputes. We are pleased to report that our efforts were crowned with much success.

It is impossible to fully recount the matters which have come under our jurisdiction, and upon which action has been taken. These are largely matters of record and detail. We have endeavored to give our best efforts to the very many matters which have been referred to us, often taking the initiative wherever the interests of our fellow workers could be promoted.

Trusting that our course may be productive of great good and further the interests of all labor, and that the same may meet with your approval.

Fraternally submitted,
SAMUEL GOMPERS,
P. J. MCGUIRE,
JAMES DUNCAN,
JAMES O'CONNELL,
M. M. GARLAND,
JOHN B. LENNON,
FRANK MORRISON.

Executive Council.

Report referred to Committee on Executive Council's Report. Adopted.

Delegate Kidd, for Credentials Committee, made report on credentials, as follows:

To the Officers and Delegates of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Your Committee on Credentials begs leave to report favorably on the credentials of John F. Tobin, representing the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, and Jasper C. Rogers, rep-

resenting the Chattanooga Central Labor Union.

We carefully considered the protest entered against the acceptance of the credentials presented by James McGill, representing Federal Labor Union, No. 6873. The protest came from the Representative of the American Agents Association and the Brotherhood of Leather Workers on Horse Goods, and was based upon the fact that Mr. McGill, at one time, was an active member of the Louisville Leather Workers Union. It was claimed that this branch seceded from the National Union, and that inasmuch as Mr. McGill was one of its members he could not legally represent any organization directly affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Mr. McGill contends that he ceased to be a member of the Leather Workers Union of Louisville when he found that it would not become a part of the national organization. He applied for and received a withdrawal card from this union and then became a member of Federal Union No. 6873. Your committee reports favorably on Mr. McGill's credentials.

We also considered the protest made by the American Agents Association and the American Federation of Musicians against the acceptance of the credentials of Andrew Ludwig, the Representative of the Central Labor Union of Louisville, Ky. It is contended that Mr. Ludwig is a member of a Terpsichorean Musicians Union not connected with the national organization of musicians, and hence cannot legally represent any organization in this convention, according to Article XII, Section 1, of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor. It is further asserted that the local Leather Workers Union has delegates in the Central Labor Union of Louisville, in direct violation of our laws. After having given the case our earnest attention, and inasmuch as the law is clear and explicit in this matter, we regret having no other alternative but to report unfavorably on Mr. Ludwig's credentials.

R. ASKEW, Chairman,
JAMES W. KLINE,
THOMAS I. KIDD, Secretary.
Committee.

It was moved and adopted that delegates reported on favorably be seated.

Delegate Doyle moved that the report of the Committee on the credentials of James McGill be concurred in. Adopted.

In the report of the Credentials Committee on credentials of Andrew B. Ludwig, it was moved by Delegate Klapetzky that the report be adopted.

Ludwig requested permission to be heard.

Delegate Lennon moved that the request be granted. Adopted.

Ludwig said there never was a protest entered against the seating of delegates to the central body in Louisville. He was satisfied that the matter will be settled at the convention of the musicians in May.

The Louisville union is one hundred strong with seventy-five members in good standing. The union objects to paying \$15 per capita

per member, per year, to the national union. The committee almost agreed that no contest could come from there on the grounds stated.

Delegate White moved that the delegate be seated and the matter referred to the Grievance Committee.

Delegate Furuseth moved as a substitute that it be referred to the Grievance Committee.

Delegate McGuire said that he favored the motion of Delegate White, and that the matter should go to the Grievance Committee in regular form.

Delegate Sidener stated that the contest was not personal nor against the union. The leather workers will not affiliate with their national, and therefore are not entitled to representation on the floor of this convention.

Delegate Kreft: As far as the musicians are concerned, I should like to see the matter adjusted in a fair manner. If the statement of Ludwig is correct, he is not entitled to membership in the Musicians Union, and I object to the convention taking radical action. The matter should be adjusted.

Delegate Fahey: Harness makers can not pay the per capita tax of their national. If Ludwig is debarred, you refuse admission to twenty-nine unions.

Delegate Doyle: There are central bodies represented here that have unions affiliated that are not connected with their nationals. I find no fault with the report of the committee. They have carried out the law.

Delegate Duncan said that it may be the best policy, but it will mean that hereafter unions not desiring to become affiliated with their national would claim inefficiency. It is a dangerous precedent.

Delegate Schmalz stated that the union never made an application for a charter to the American Federation of Musicians.

Delegate Askew said that if a central body refused to obey the constitution of the American Federation of Labor it should suffer the penalty prescribed.

Delegate Hofner said that if the constitution applies to one central body, it should be applied to all. There were several central bodies present who occupied a similar position.

Delegate Lennon stated that he was the formulator of the law bearing upon this subject. He said that the delegates of other central bodies stand in the same position as Ludwig. If Ludwig is refused a seat in the convention he would demand that the credentials of delegates representing central bodies be investi-

gated. He was opposed to making fish of one and flesh of another.

Delegate McGill stated that some few months ago the President of the American Federation of Musicians called upon him and said "that if the local union wished to be isolated from the American Federation of Musicians, he was agreeable." Mr. Ludwig desired to be affiliated with the American Federation of Musicians.

Mr. Ludwig was elected by an almost unanimous vote, musicians voting for him.

Delegate Bazeley said if the delegates from Louisville are satisfied the other unions should be.

Delegate Mahon moved the previous question. Adopted.

Delegate Myers being recognized on a question of information, wanted to know if the motion of Delegate White prevailed, would Ludwig be entitled to a seat during the Convention.

The Chair declared Delegate White's motion out of order.

Delegate McGuire appealed from the decision of the chair, upon the grounds of parliamentary procedure. Appeal sustained.

Delegate Furuseth's amendment was lost.

Delegate White's motion prevailed.

The following letters, telegrams, and invitations were read:

Denver, Col., December 10, 1897.

To the American Federation of Labor, in session at Nashville, Tenn., Frank Morrison, Secretary:

Dear Sir—In behalf of the citizens of Denver, I desire to cordially extend to the American Federation of Labor an invitation to hold its next annual convention in this city. Since your last meeting in Denver, our people have energetically taken up the erection of an auditorium, and should you decide to visit us again, we will be in position not only to offer you a cordial Western greeting, but ample accommodations for your comfort. Trusting that we may have the pleasure of welcoming you in 1898, I am,

Very truly yours,
T. S. McMURRAY, Mayor.

Denver, Col., December 10, 1897.

To the Officers and Delegates of the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled:

Gentlemen—The Denver Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade hereby unite with the 25,000 members of organized labor in Colorado in extending your honorable body a cordial invitation to hold your next annual convention in this city in 1898.

Very respectfully,
E. MONASH, President,
ARTHUR WILLIAMS, Secretary,

Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade.

Denver, Col., December 13, 1897.
 Rody Kenchan, Esq., care American Federation of Labor, National Convention, Nashville, Tenn:

Permit me to join mayor and chamber of commerce in inviting Federation to hold next convention in Denver. There is no State in which the Federation of Labor will find a more congenial atmosphere or a more sincere welcome.

ALVA ADAMS.

Newark, N. J., December 13, 1897.
 American Federation of Labor, Hall of Representatives, Nashville, Tenn.:

The New Jersey State sends greetings and congratulations for past achievements. May the deliberations of this convention result in still further advancing the cause of labor and ameliorating the condition of the wage-earning classes.

H. J. GOTTLÖB,
 Chairman Executive Board.
 T. J. McHUGH, Secretary.

Topeka, Kansas, December 13, 1897.
 Hon. Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:
 Heartiest congratulations to the Federation on this year's work and best wishes for coming year.

THE ADVOCATE AND NEWS.

Kansas City, Kansas, December 13, 1897.
 Sam'l Gompers, Nashville, Tenn.:

This Brotherhood sends greetings to the seventeenth annual convention. May your meeting be harmonious and pleasant, and your deliberations be the shibboleth of future greatness to the toiling millions in their endeavors to exalt the standard of trade unionism.

WM. GILTHORPE, Secretary-Treasurer.

Peoria, Illinois, December 13, 1897.
 Mr. Samuel Gompers, Nashville, Tenn.:

On behalf of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen we send greetings to the officers and delegates of the American Federation of Labor in convention assembled. We bespeak for your honorable body an harmonious session and the enactment of such wise measures as will redound to the honor of the labor movement and the principles of strict trade unionism so clearly set forth in the constitution of your honorable body, will be sacredly preserved, and that from your meeting may come forth an influence which may be felt in all departments of trade, and the unorganized wage-workers be encouraged to organize, so that the coming year may be one of unprecedented growth in the labor movement.

F. P. SARGENT,
 Grand Master Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.

Chicago, Illinois, December 11, 1897.
 To the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled:

Dear Friends and Brothers—The National Women's Christian Temperance Union sends you greetings and begs to assure you of its cordial sympathy and deep desire to co-operate with you wherever it can consistently do so.

We believe in the right of organized labor, and, as we have repeatedly stated in our Declaration of Principles, we believe in the eight hour day and in the living wage. We also believe, however, that intemperance and the legalized saloon are among the great foes of labor and the laborer; and we earnestly trust

that in this meeting declarations may be made of your own conviction upon that subject. We are sure that by taking this stand you will break one more link in the shackles which bind labor. We by no means affirm that intemperance is the only enemy, but we do believe that it is a great foe, and that its overthrow would aid greatly in solving the labor problem. With best wishes and fraternal greetings on behalf of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, I am,

Your sister and co-laborer,

KATHERINE L. STEVENSON,
 Corresponding Secretary N. W. C. T. U.

Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Nashville, Tennessee, December 13, 1897.
 Mr. President and Gentlemen of the American Federation of Labor:

You are hereby kindly invited to view a group of statuary, called, "The Struggle for Work." It was exhibited at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, and is still at the Parthenon. The group created much favorable comment during the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and also here in Nashville, and is supposed to be of vital interest to the members of this convention, wherefore you are all cordially invited to see it at any time convenient to you.

Respectfully,
 JOHANNES GELERT,
 Sculptor of the Group, P. A., Tulane Hotel.

Moved by Delegate Brennock that the invitation be accepted. Adopted.

The Committee on Rules reported as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

We, your Committee on Rules, beg leave to submit for your consideration the following rules to govern this Convention:

Rule 1.—The convention shall be called to order at 9 a.m., adjourn at 12 noon, to reassemble at 2 p.m., and to continue in session until 5:30 p.m.

Rule 2.—Every delegate when he rises to speak shall respectfully address the Chair. While speaking he shall confine himself to the question.

Rule 3.—Should two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the Chair shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

Rule 4.—No delegate shall interrupt another in his remarks, unless it shall be to call him to a point of order.

Rule 5.—If a delegate, while speaking, be called to order, he shall, at the request of the Chair, take his seat until the question of order is determined, when, if permitted, he may proceed again.

Rule 6.—A delegate shall not speak more than once on the same subject or question until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so, nor more than twice without permission from the house, nor any longer than five minutes at a time without permission.

Rule 7.—A question shall not be subject to debate until it has been seconded and stated from the Chair, and it shall be reduced to writing at the request of any member.

Rule 8.—When a question is before the

house no motion shall be in order, except to adjourn, to refer, for the previous question, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone for a certain time, to divide, or amend, which motions shall severally have precedence in the order named.

Rule 9.—A motion to lay on table shall be put without debate.

Rule 10.—A motion for a reconsideration shall not be entertained unless made by a delegate who voted in the majority, and shall require a majority vote.

Rule 11.—Any delegate not present to answer to his name at roll shall be marked absent; but in the event of being unavoidably absent, shall have the privilege of reporting to the Secretary.

Rule 12.—The previous question can only be put when called for by at least twelve members.

Rule 13.—That before a resolution is received by the chair or Committee on Resolutions, it shall bear the signature of the delegate introducing it, with the title of his union.

Rule 14.—No motion or resolution shall be finally passed without opportunity to speak is afforded the delegate making or introducing the same.

Rule 15.—That no resolution be received after Thursday's session without unanimous consent.

Rule 16.—All questions not herein provided shall be decided according to Cushing's Manual.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Roll call of officers and delegates.
2. Reading minutes of previous session.
3. Report of Committee on Credentials.
4. Reports of officers.
5. Reports of regular committees.
6. Reports of special committees.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Election and installation of officers.
10. Good of the Federation.
11. Adjournment.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

S. B. GLENN, Chairman,
J. F. MULHOLLAND, Secretary.
ANDREW C. HUGHES,
JAMES A. MURPHY,
SAMUEL YARNELL.

Delegate Elderkin moved that the report of the committee be adopted as a whole.

Delegate Krefl moved that it be taken up *seriatim*.

The amendment was lost by a vote of 26 to 38.

The original motion was then adopted.

Mr. Tobin moved that Mr. Isaac Cowan, representative of the American Canadian Amalgamated Engineers, be invited to address the convention on the engineers strike.

Adopted.

Mr. Cowan said the conditions grew out of an attempt to establish the eight hour day. The first lockout occurred in July, and about 60,000 men are without work. Since the lockout the men have been supported by the Federation of Great Britain. The British engineers are in great need, and they ask assistance from the Americans, and feel that they are asking a favor of brothers who should help them in their struggle to establish the eight hour day. Once established in one country, it will be much easier for the laborers in another country to attain their end, and the winning of this fight means the upbuilding of the eight hour movement in the United States. It is a movement on the part of the capitalists of Great Britain to disrupt the labor organizations of England.

President Gompers, having retaken the chair, said that he presumed it was proper to call the attention of Brother Cowan to the fact that both the President's and Executive Council's reports covered the matter, and that it was now in the hands of committees, and that the convention appreciated the eloquent address of the brother.

The Committee on Resolutions reported as follows:

That Resolution No. 3 be referred to Executive Council for action. Adopted.

That Resolutions 4 and 5 were covered by No. 20, and recommend its adoption.

Delegate Millard Loyd in explaining the Postal Savings Bank stated that for years Presidents and Postmaster Generals had called Congress' attention to this question, but thus far without success. The plan is to have post-offices designated as places where money can be deposited to the credit of our citizens, the United States government standing good for all deposits, investing them in safe securities, and paying a low rate of interest thereon. The prime object is to establish a safe and convenient place of deposit for the savings of wage-earners and others of small income. Postal Savings Banks have long been in successful operation in many of the advanced nations of the world. The state has no better citizen; the law no more effective conservator, than the workingman with a family in a home absolutely his own. Money would be cheaper, business steadier, and the possibility of panics greatly lessened. Such a system is the Postal Savings Bank. The best way to decrease crime is to increase thrift. The conditions necessary to meet this demand are found in the Postal Savings Banks—the people's banks. The savings of the wage earners are his bulwark in times of adversity. The resolutions under consideration are the expression

of a great popular need, endorsed by the best sentiment of the country. Congress cannot disregard this need without confirming the belief that no remedial legislation can be had for the masses where vested interests are involved.

Delegate Tobin said that while he was in favor of the postal savings scheme, he would call the attention of the convention to the fact that in those countries mentioned they have different banking laws. He was not in favor of some parts of the *Chicago Record* Bill. He recommended the following amendment:

Moved, That the entire subject-matter of the Postal Savings Bank be referred to the Executive Council, with instructions to draft or approve a Postal Savings Bank Bill which will prevent the deposit of funds of such savings banks in national banks. Adopted.

The fraternal delegates submitted their report, and during the reading the President called Fraternal Delegate Harford to the Chair:

To the President, Delegates and Members of the American Federation of Labor:

Gentlemen—The fraternal delegates elected by you to represent the organized labor of the United States at the Trades Union Congress of Great Britain, respectfully report:

Upon our arrival in England we were welcomed in Liverpool by Samuel Woods, Secretary, and Mr. F. Chandler, of the Parliamentary Committee, and by a delegation of the Trades Union in Liverpool.

The Trades Union Congress opened at Birmingham, England, September 13, 1897. There were present nearly four hundred delegates, representing eighty-two unions, with a membership of 1,336,000. These figures are made up to March 31. Since that date many of these unions have largely increased their membership, notably the union of which Fraternal Delegate Harford is a member. The delegates of the Coal Miners represented 221,300. There are an equal number of coal miners who were not represented. The delegates of the different Textile Unions represented 167,869; the Building Trades, 108,512; the Amalgamated Engineers, 92,000; the Laborers, 86,777; the Boot and Shoe Workers, 42,000; the Printing Trades, 34980; the Railway Servants and Engine Drivers, 72,492; the Tailors, 17,000; the Shipwrights, 15,480. The largest single union represented was the Miners Federation of Great Britain—they had forty delegates, representing 150,000 members; the Amalgamated Engineers ranked second, having 92,000; the Weavers North Country Amalgamation, 81,455 members; the Miners National Union, 70,000; the Railway Servants Amalgamated Society, 61,234—this union has been gaining at the rate of about 1,200 per week, and now numbers about 100,000; Carpenters and Joiners Amalgamated Society, 50,000; the Boilermakers and Iron Shipworkers, 41,500; the Boot and Shoe Operative Union, 38,000; the Gas Workers and General Laborers Union, 30,000.

Many of the delegates had represented their unions in the Congress for many years. There were five delegates who are members of Parliament, namely, Samuel Woods, B. Pickard, J. Wilson, T. Burke, and J. Havelock Wilson. The following is a list of the resolutions discussed. The most of these resolutions, in fact most all of them, are resolutions in reference to parliamentary action.

1. Truck Act Amendment. Passed.
2. Co-operation and Trades Unions. Part to be submitted to a special committee.
3. Taxation of Ground Values. A bill to be drafted and presented to Parliament by Mr. J. Havelock Wilson at the next session of Parliament.

4. Contracts and Fair Wages. Mr. J. Havelock Wilson to offer an amendment to the Queen's speech for the enforcement of the resolution of Parliament dealing with the giving out of contract so as to prevent government contracts with unfair employees.
5. General eight hour working day. John Burns is to introduce the bill for a general eight hour day.

6. Electoral Form.
7. Factory Legislations. Both of these resolutions were to send deputations to the home secretary.
8. Compensation for accidents. The Queen's speech to be amended.

9. The Administration of the Conspiracy and other Acts in Trades Union cases. A member of parliament to bring in a bill so that workmen may serve on the jury.
10. Payment of Members of Parliament.
11. Poor Law Amendment.

These resolutions were prepared by the Parliamentary Committee. The following resolutions were presented by the Trades Union:

Amendment to the Mines Act; Mines Eight Hour Bill; Mines Regulations Amendment Bill.

The National Union of Shop Assistants presented a resolution for uniform hours of closing all shops and for closing all day Sunday.

The London Domestic Servants Union presented a resolution limiting the hours of labor to seventy hours per week.

The resolutions of the Bakers Union favoring the limiting of the hours of work in Scotland to eight hours a day, and the Forty-eight Hour Bakeshop Bill.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers for the abolition of overtime. This resolution was carried as an expression of opinion.

The following resolutions, for the amendment of the Factory and Workshop Act, were presented:

Prohibiting the employment of women to within six months of giving birth to a child.

Prohibiting working in paper mills or textile mills from Saturday noon till Monday at 6 a.m. The abolition of child employment under 15 years of age, and of all night labor under 18.

Providing for the appointment of a practical male person of not less than 21 years of age, for the purpose of working machinery which produces the power to drive the shafting.

The certifying surgeon should be paid by the treasurer; to include all ship and port workers with the act; to include the Jute and Linen Workers on the same footing as the Woolen Workers; to amend the Particulars Clause so as to include all domestic workshops.

Carried.

The following resolution had reference to the Law of Conspiracy:

Declaring that the law relating to the intimidation during strikes or lockouts is unfair and unjust. Carried.

For a clearer definition of the rights of Trade Unionists under the law whereby picketing may be engaged in without interference from the police. Carried.

Instructing the Parliamentary Committee to use its influence to obtain such amendments of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act as will place trade unionists and their organization in a satisfactory legal position, and to secure an amendment of the same act to protect those who are legitimately exercising the right of combination for trade purposes against civil as well as criminal proceedings. Carried.

Upon the question of legislation in reference to land and minerals two resolutions were presented. One to nationalize the land, mines, minerals, royalty, rents, railways, waterways, and docks, and to municipalize all water, artificial light and tramway undertakings within their several authorities. Carried.

The second resolution had reference to the nationalization of the mineral royalties. Carried.

Fair Wages Resolution.—Presented by the Amalgamated Waiters Society, "opposing the renewal of refreshment and amusement licenses, and the granting of all new licenses unless the applicants agree to sign the Fair Wage and Hours of Labor cause, and grant their employees a six days' working week." Carried.

The Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Ship Builders Association protested against "the custom prevailing in the Government dockyard of putting laborers to do mechanics' work." Carried.

Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners protesting against the low rate of wages in the royal dockyards, and also the system of piece work at Woolwich Arsenal. Carried.

The Midland Counties Trade Federation requesting the insertion "in all Government contracts that every person or persons tendering or estimating for Government work must pay or cause to be paid to the whole of his or their workmen such rate of wages, and observe such hours of labor, as are recognized by the trade unions." Carried.

Railway Questions.—Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants asking for an increase in the number of sub-inspectors as a means of ascertaining the causes of the large number of accidents to railway servants. Carried. And another resolution for securing the appointment of duly qualified persons to test the accuracy of the men's vision. Carried. This resolution was in consequence of the railway companies subjecting their men to other than practical tests.

Compensation for Injuries.—The Associated Shipwrights Society requiring "that the Government shall compensate the dependant relatives of H. M. Civil Servants who may die while in the service of the Crown, and who have had deducted from their pay certain sums toward pensions. Carried.

The Amalgamated Stevedores Labor Pro-

tection League protests against "the action of the President of the Board of Trade, and calls upon the Government to facilitate the passage of legislation intended to give the worker the right of taking proceedings against any ship owners." Carried.

Federation of Trades.—Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants favoring the federation of all the "trades unions of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales."

Other resolutions on this same subject were presented by the National Federation of Blast Furnacemen, Amalgamated Society of Steel and Iron Workers, the General Railway Workers, and the National Plate Glass Bevelers. All incorporated into one and carried.

Steam Engines and Boilers.—Under this heading seven resolutions were presented: 1. Requesting a practical examination of persons who have charge of any steam engine or boiler.

2. Requiring insurance companies who condemn a boiler or boilers to inform the board of trade.

3. Providing for the compulsory examination and registration of all steam boilers.

4. Condemning mine owners for employing irresponsible workmen "to execute repairs on boilers."

5. Instructing the Parliamentary Committee to support the Persons in Charge Bill.

6. To grant licenses only to practical men.

7. Providing for the appointment of qualified and technically trained engineers, etc. Carried.

Questions on Various Subjects.—1. The employment of Trade Union Musicians.

2. Recognition of Waiters as a *bona fide* trade.

3. Reform of Procedure of House of Commons in Regard to Private Members Bill.

4. Registration of Trade Societies.

5. Education and Public Money.

6. Navigation of Craft on Rivers.

7. Watermen's Representation.

8. Compulsory Weighing.

9. Workmen in Government Stores.

10. Grievances of Coopers in the Royal Navy.

11. Trade Unionists and their Children.

12. Fatal Accident Act, Scotland.

13. Old Age Pensions.

14. Postal Employees Grievances.

15. Same.

16. Extension of "Hosiery Manufacturers' Wages Act," 1874.

17. Reform of the Board of Trade. (Labor Department.)

18. Taking over members of another union.

19. Merchandise Marks Act.

20. Labor Representation in Parliament.

21. Public Carriage Inspection.

22. Retention of Servants' Wages.

The question of the unemployed was dealt with in two resolutions. Amendments to many of the resolutions were printed with the resolutions. The whole programme as arranged was presented in print to the Congress.

The length of this report prevents an analysis of the discussions that took place on these different resolutions.

The Congress continued in session from Monday, the 13th, to Saturday, the 18th, and concluded with a grand labor demonstration.

The large amount of work covered by this programme did not prevent the delegates from accepting the hospitalities of the city and of private persons. Receptions were given by the Lord Mayor and by Alderman Cook, both of whom hold trade union cards. They were also entertained by the Earl of Warwick at the Warwick Castle, and by the trades unions of Birmingham at a public concert and hall. Meetings were held by some of the unions during the week, and many of the clergymen spoke favorably of the trades unions and the Trades Union Congress on the Sunday preceding the opening of the Congress. Lady Dilk, wife of Sir Charles Dilk, with the aid of David Holmes and others, held a public meeting in the interest of the working girls.

The Fraternal Delegates were given a brief opportunity to address the Congress.

The method of procedure in the Trades Congress of Great Britain differs greatly from that of the American Federation of Labor. It seems to be conducted with the idea of saving time; and it is doubtful if the delegates of the American Federation would pleasantly submit to what would appear to them to be an arbitrary manner of conducting business. The chairman rules the Congress with a large brass bell. Yet I think we can agree with the editorial comment of one of the Birmingham papers, which says as follows:

"There are some points about the Trades Congress which all assemblies might study with profit. If the House of Commons could be induced to follow certain of the methods employed in the acceleration of Congress business, we should be quite prepared for an indefinite increase in the number of labor members, while the city councils and school boards might be cheerfully surrendered to them on the same terms. There is a volume known as the *Chairman's Handbook*, said to be much in favor with aspirants to public life. The founders of the Trades Congress took a much shorter cut when they invented the chairman's handbell. No code of rules or by-laws ever attained a fraction of the cogency of this instrument; the Deputy Cononer of Exeter is impotence itself this week alongside of President Stevens. We do not know what constitutional maxims govern the use of the bell; its practical efficiency, at all events, waives their importance. It makes the closure a mockery and suspension puerile. Until lungs are driven by steam no obstructionist can hope to wage successful warfare against a president with a moderately strong wrist."

Although during the sessions of the Congress there were occasions when the rulings of the chair met with considerable opposition, yet nevertheless at the close of the Congress a hearty vote of thanks was given him. It was not a perfunctory vote; it was an earnest expression of appreciation that the chairman's rulings were in the interest of the delegates and not of himself or of any faction. There were some forty reporters present at each session, and full and complete reports were given in some of the daily papers.

One of the most remarkable features of the Congress was the presence, as delegates, of a large number of old and experienced trade unionists. It may be truly said that the old chiefs maintained their hold and influenced and directed the legislation of the Congress. As the *Daily Argus*, of Birmingham, said:

"Not only are their contributions to debate invariably the weightiest and most moderate

and convincing that one might expect from the fact that they have long been to school to the most efficient of teachers, Experience—but, what is at once agreeably surprising and intensely gratifying to the thoughtful observer, it is these men who had the ear of the Congress, who persuade the delegates with eloquent words and dissuade them with earnest warnings."

It was extremely gratifying to witness the confidence which the delegates had in their experienced leaders. The work of the Parliamentary Committee was carefully and critically examined by delegates, resulting in their hearty endorsement.

Some few years ago the trades unionists of this country were treated to some lectures and discourses on the new trades unionism in Great Britain. One of your fraternal delegates had publicly denied the oft-repeated statement of the existence of any such new unionism as was implied. The Trades Union Congress at Birmingham evidenced the growth of economic ideas with economic conditions. They made no new departure, but they were favorable to making those new steps in advance which experience warranted.

The Congress may at times have been taken off its feet, but it was for a short period only. The trades unionists of Great Britain, like the trades unionists of this country, stand with both feet planted upon *terra firma*, and although their imagination may begin to take flights, they do not attempt to fly, but hold fast to the position gained, and step forward to a still stronger vantage ground.

The Congress was never dull. It was as lively as a convention of this Federation. It was socialistic only in the Trades Union sense. Before attempting to speak of the legislation enacted, it may be well to call your attention to a few historical facts. The first Congress was held in Manchester in 1868. There were thirty-four delegates representing 118,367 members. The second Congress was held at Birmingham in 1869, when about forty societies were represented, with a membership of 250,000. This Congress, as will be seen, had about four hundred delegates, representing eighty-two societies, with a membership of nearly a million and a half.

Prior to 1871, trades unions were not recognized as lawful, corporate bodies. Much beneficial legislation had been secured prior to the first Congress. The ten hour law had been in operation twenty years. The Saturday half-holiday had been established for factory operatives about ten years. The ten-hour system had been extended; a series of 1842 acts in relation to chimney sweeps, bakehouse employees and sailors were secured. The agricultural gangs act was passed in 1867.

When the call was issued for the first Congress, many looked upon the movement with suspicion, but as the delegates maintained a strong, conservative Trades Union policy, the confidence of the Trades Union constituency was obtained, and year by year the Congress has gained in membership and power until today it is an established institution.

The necessity for a more perfect union, and the organization of a more economic system of conducting trades union politics were the causes that led to the establishment of the Congress.

Step by step for thirty years these bodies of organized labor have gained new acces-

sions to their ranks, new legislation in their interests; compelled public attention, and secured general approval. They have been singularly fortunate, first, in the fact of the homogeneous nature of their membership, the concentration of their industries, the long history of accomplished results for a long period of time, the self-sacrificing devotion of the leaders and members alike, the sturdy stubbornness with which they hold their ground, the freedom from antagonistic labor associations, and the loyalty which the members of the Union have displayed by continuing their officers in positions for long periods of years.

The history of their movement is full of encouragement to us. We have waged our contest under difficulties almost beyond their comprehension. The vast extent of our territory, the peculiarities of the different sections of our country, the heterogeneous complexion of our constituency, the temptation to seek political preferment outside of labor lines, the constant change of officials, the feverish excitement and nervous energy of our people, and above all the pernicious doctrine, so long enunciated, that every worker is competent to deal with his own employer, all tend to lessen trades union growth. It was confessed by those with whom we conversed that our progress had been marvelous.

During our stay we had an opportunity to visit many of the workshops and places of employment, some of the institutions, and to meet with all classes of people. We found excessive poverty and excessive wealth; class distinction, political animosities, national prejudice, and the usual human weaknesses. But we also found that a Trades Union Card was an honorable introduction to respectful attention.

The strike and lockout of the Amalgamated Engineers was in progress during our stay. We visited some of the local offices of the Society, and witnessed their way of doing business.

In the opinion of your representatives, the Trades Unions of Great Britain have reached a critical period in their history. There is, evidently, much force in the assertion that the contest in which the engineers are now engaged is conducted on the part of the employers and their allies with the determination to destroy the power of the unions. This effort, we believe, will prove futile, but the contest is likely to be expensive in time and money. The great work of the Amalgamated Engineers Society in accomplishing the nine-hour workday, twenty-nine years ago, commends its claim to our assistance. All of the forces are gathering for a great struggle, and it behooves organized labor everywhere to prepare for that struggle by increasing membership and increasing dues. Four years the two great economic bodies—the American Federation of Labor and the Trades Union Congress of Great Britain—have extended their sympathetic greeting through fraternal delegates. The time has come or is near at hand when something more than an expression of sympathy will be needed. To this end, and as a step in the right direction, we recommend that the fraternal delegates be given the privilege of taking part in the discussion of such questions as they may be interested in, such as questions of the Hours of Labor, Conspiracy Acts, protection of Seamen, Railway men, etc. We further recommend that the Laws of the Federation be so amended as to

more clearly set forth the privilege of visiting fraternal delegates.

The gentlemen elected to represent the Trades Union of Great Britain are now present with us and worthy of our high regards, and are favorable to recommendation presented for your consideration.

Trade Unionism has one nationality and one religion, and both are included in the one word—Brotherhood. It has one spirit and one purpose; the spirit is the spirit of love, and the purpose the establishment of liberty, fraternity, and equality.

Thanking the Federation for the honor of representing them upon so important a mission we subscribe ourselves,

MARTIN FOX,
GEO. E. McNEILL.

Delegate Lennon moved that the report be accepted and the portions recommending the change of laws be referred to the Committee on Laws. Adopted.

The following resolutions were introduced by unanimous consent and referred to the proper committees:

Resolution No. 31.—By Delegate Roady Kenchan:

WHEREAS, the demand of the Union Horseshoers of St. Louis for living wages, made in May last, has not yet been granted by the employing horseshoers of that city, and on the 25th of June, the scabs had been imported from other cities to fill the places of Union men went out on strike, applied to the courts of St. Louis to be granted a charter. They were granted a charter by the State of Missouri, and also one from the Knights of Labor in the month of June. The intention of the new union is to begin an organization of locals in other cities with a view of starting other bodies, and to eventually overthrow the present International Union that is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. This information was given at the time of taking out the charter for the new organization of scabs from St. Louis, both to the courts and at Jefferson City.

In the month of June there being no settlement of the strike of the Union Journey-men Horseshoers of St. Louis, some who had left the city tried to find employment in other cities, but found out that there was no employment for them on account of the Master Horseshoers Association having an organization in most all the cities throughout the United States. Employment for Union horseshoers in St. Louis was a thing of the past. The International Union officers immediately proceeded to establish shops in St. Louis and opened up a shop known as Shop No. 1, 1713 Morgan St.; Shop No. 2, 3336 S. Broadway, rear; Shop No. 3, 2111 North Ninth Street; Shop No. 4, 201 South Eighth Street; Shop No. 5, 210 North Theresa Avenue; Shop No. 6, 4444 Easton Ave; Shop No. 7, 100-311 Car street, there being one hundred and eighty men at that time out of employment, and the strike in its ninth week. They appealed to the labor unions of St. Louis to assist them. Mr. W. Lemp, of Lemp's Brewery, was the first to come to their assistance; as soon as the shops were opened in his neighborhood, he gave them all the shoeing of his horses. Horse-shoeing before the strike in St. Louis had been \$2 per set, that is for four shoes. When the

International Union opened co-operative shops they commenced to shoe for \$1.50 per set, that is for four shoes. When the Master Horseshoers Association found out that he was having his work done with the Union men they offered on July 29 to do horseshoeing for \$1.25 for four new shoes, hand made, but so far Mr. Lemp has refused to allow the scabs that had been imported into St. Louis to do his work. The Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company so far has given very little of the horseshoeing.

On December 11, I called to see Mr. Isaacs, Secretary of the Grievance Committee, in St. Louis, and inquired of Mr. Isaacs what had been the trouble with the horseshoers of St. Louis that they could not get the work which belongs to Union shops. He informed me that he called on the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company several times in regard to the matter, and on or about the 15th of July Mr. Busch himself told them that out of their two hundred and twenty-five head of horses he would give the Union Co-operative shops ninety head to shoe monthly. He advised me to call and see Mr. Busch myself in the matter, and he would inform me of his reasons for not patronizing the Union Co-operative Shops. I made an engagement by telephone to meet Mr. Busch at any time he saw fit. He answered me from the Boston store, where Mr. Isaacs is employed, to come at once to the brewery. I did so, and met Mr. Busch in his office. Mr. Busch himself informed me that he had not made any contract with any one to shoe his horses. I asked Mr. Busch if he had any grievance whatever against the horseshoers, that I was informed he had a list of our members who drank scab beer. He answered me that such was not the case, but that he had a grievance against union men in general in St. Louis, of which further on in this report I will explain. In the month of July I wrote to Mr. Gompers and informed him of the situation in St. Louis, and asked him to correspond with the firm of Anheuser-Busch, which he did immediately. They informed Mr. Gompers at that time that Mr. Busch was in Europe. On the return of Mr. Busch, it was in or about the month of August, Mr. Gompers wrote again to Mr. Busch, and Mr. Busch sent him the following communication:

"Your letter of the 25th inst. to hand, and probably through an oversight your previous communication of August was neglected to be placed before me. I was called upon by the Horseshoers' Union of this city only a few days ago, and expressed my willingness to give them a share of our horseshoeing. To this we certainly have no objection, and trust their Union may be able to retain their portion of the work."

"Yours very truly,
"AUGUST BUSCH, Vice-President."

The following is a statement of the shoeing of 225 horses, former price about \$500 per month. At the present time about \$450 per month. The union horseshoers—that is, the co-operative shops—make their statement as follows:

For Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company, for the month of June, did no work for them.	
July.....	\$12.50
August.....	2.25
September.....	6.00
October.....	10.00
November.....	12.25

Which is \$49 in seven months, that is, the union portion of the work which would average \$7 per month, or five horses per month out of the 225 horses, which is about two per cent of Mr. Busch's work, the balance, ninety-eight per cent, going to the Master Horseshoers' Association members, who employ scab labor on the pretext of being union men because they have a charter from the Knights of Labor, and a state charter from the state of Missouri. Such are the condition of affairs in St. Louis.

In my interview with Mr. Busch on the matter he did not see why he should patronize union shops, as union men drank scab beer; and he saw no reason why he should not have his horses shod with scab horseshoers as long as these condition existed in St. Louis. Mr. Busch's great grievance against union men and why he could not see his way clear is that their leaders in the labor organizations of St. Louis patronize saloons that sell the rankest kind of scab beer, particularly a saloon known as "Vogel's Saloon," corner Seventh and Chestnut streets; and he informed me that if I would go to work and have union men drink union-made beer that he would patronize the shops that I asked him to. He informed me that the leaders of most all the labor organizations in St. Louis, and particularly the Glass Blowers' Union, were patronizing scab saloons and drinking scab beer. Mr. Kulzenknebe said that that was true. I asked Mr. Busch if I might use Mr. Kulzenknebe's name in my report, and Mr. Busch said that I could do so; and that he said he was perfectly right in not patronizing union shops as long as union men patronized scab beer and scab saloons. I asked Mr. Busch if he had any fault to find with the quality of the work they do for them. As it was satisfactory to him in every manner the whole difference is so many union men in St. Louis drinking scab beer, and in his opinion not living up to union principles for members of unions in St. Louis. He always understood that the principles were that they were banded together for a different purpose, and so long as they did not live up to that principle he did not see why he should be compelled to live up to the principles of patronizing union shops.

Mr. Busch informed me also that it was a hard matter to expect him all at once to quit the men who had been doing his horseshoeing for from fifteen to twenty years. On this matter I jogged Mr. Busch's memory that in 1884 the company commenced to shoe their horses in their own shop connected with the brewery, and continued to do so until August, 1895, and from thereon commenced to have them shod on the outside. But Mr. Busch expects union men, in his argument, to keep away from scab saloons. He never gave the matter a thought of how he runs his institution, and that he was not getting two per cent of his work done in the union shops of St. Louis, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and that the balance he has done with the professional scabs of this country.

I have quoted to Mr. Busch the kind of work that was done by the Master Horseshoers of St. Louis, and here is one sample of it in particular: Al Jaehn and his outfit that had to pay Mr. A. G. Feller \$500 for the pricking of his horse with a nail and caused the death of the animal. This is the kind of men who formed the scab union in St. Louis, with a

charter from the Knights of Labor, and from the state of Missouri. I also stated to him my interview at Lemp's Brewery with the man in charge of the stock. He informed me that Lemp's Brewery had some of the finest horses in the world, and he gives the co-operative shops the credit of doing his work more carefully, and his horses' feet are in better shape that they have been for years, since he got his horses shod by the men who are now running the co-operative shops. These men can give Anheuser-Busch the same satisfaction they have given Mr. Lemp if he will only give them a trial. In his reply to Mr. Gompers he stated that if they could only retain their portion of the work, but he informed me that their work was most satisfactory to him. The members of the co-operative shops in St. Louis informed me that they have got so far, from Mr. Busch's stable boss, the horses that have the largest feet and the poorest feet, for which I have a sample here with me of the shoes that have been gotten ready to put on a team of Mr. Busch's horses for the magnificent sum of \$1.50, and if done in the Master Horseshoers' shops, that is, the scab shops, would be done for \$1.25. How the Master Horseshoers' Association can shoe the horses, I have been reliably informed, that if our men—the co-operative shops—met the cut of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company that the association would reduce it to \$1. How they can do this is by the system that the association has adopted to drive the co-operative shops out of St. Louis and deprive the men of making a living in any part of this country. If they get \$1 from Anheuser the National Association pays them the other dollar, which leaves the scab institution receiving \$2 for shoeing the horse. On the whole, this is too plainly shown to the brewers of St. Louis, and of the whole country, that the American Federation of Labor, which we are affiliated with, is not the power that we boast of. In looking over the books of the Journeymen Horseshoers, and examining them in regard to the strike, I find a resolution on the records of the minute book of our local, in June, 1894, that any member of Local Union No. 3, of St. Louis, drinking scab beer or patronizing saloons that handle scab beer, that they be fined \$5 every time they were found guilty. Vote as recorded was 90 for the resolution and 7 against the resolution; and also when the saloon in Lightstone's Hall commenced to sell scab beer that the Journeymen Horseshoers' Local No. 3, was the first to move out of the hall, and would not meet there any more.

WHEREAS, The Anheuser-Busch Company of St. Louis are among those who are lending material aid to those who are conducting scab establishments through the importation of cheap, unreliable and incompetent workmen; and,

WHEREAS, Appeals have been made in vain to the managers of said company in favor of organized labor as represented by the St. Louis horseshoers; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, hereby enters its protest against this discrimination in favor of disreputable, imported cheap labor and against organized workmen struggling to secure a living portion of the money earned through skill and honest service; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the President of the American Federation communicate without further delay with the firm of Anheuser-Busch

Brewing Company and demand that the firm send all of their horseshoeing to the Union Co-operative shops, and have the firm comply with the wishes of the American Federation of Labor without being compelled to the last resort to boycott, and that if the firm of Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company do not comply with the request of organized labor that the President of the American Federation of Labor place a boycott in accordance with the wishes of the convention.

I also wish to call the attention of this convention to the tobacco firms of Liggett, Myers & Co., Drummond & Co., and other tobacco companies in St. Louis, who have been patronizing scab horseshoeing shops also.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 32.—By I. B. Myers:

WHEREAS, Information has been received from reliable sources that there are quite a number of independent organizations of clerks; and

WHEREAS, Clerks employed in any branch of the retail trade, other than the liquor trade, providing they are actively engaged in a retail store, are eligible to membership in our Association; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor only recognize such salesmen as are affiliated with the Retail Clerks' National Protective Association, and that the American Federation of Labor heartily endorse the Retail Clerks' working card.

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 33.—By Delegate Leo:

At a special meeting of Coopers' Union No. 7, of Troy, Albany, and vicinity, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

We, the Coopers' Union No. 7, of Troy, Albany, and vicinity, do enter our earnest protest against the action of the National Brewery Workers' Union in placing a boycott on all Troy ale and porter, and ask the endorsement of the Central Federation of Labor of the city of Troy, and of the American Federation of Labor, in our protest.

WHEREAS, The National Brewery Workers' Union, in placing a wholesale boycott on all products of the Troy ale and porter breweries, acts as a menace to the Coopers' International Union, because all the coopers employed in these breweries are members of the Coopers' International Union, and all packages used in said ale and porter breweries for years past were union made, and because we believe a proper effort has never been made to organize these breweries on Federation lines;

WHEREAS, The casks or kegs used in many parts of the country, and on which are used the label of the National Brewery Workers' Union, are manufactured by the lowest priced and most unfair labor;

WHEREAS, The breweries of Troy, N. Y., which are boycotted by the National Brewery Workers' Union, are using casks manufactured by members of the local union under the national body, and are complying with rules and regulations governing said union;

WHEREAS, If the coopers were to use the weapon, boycott, on the breweries of this country in the manner as our sister union (National Brewery Workers) we would have most of the breweries on the unfair list where their label is used and recognized the most;

WHEREAS, At the Seventh Annual Convention of the Coopers' International Union, held at Cincinnati, September 13 to 18, 1897, it was resolved that the incoming executive board confer with the National Brewery Workers' Union for the purpose of establishing an allied label to be used on full packages of ale and lager beer, and placards where breweries are strictly union; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the Coopers' Union of Troy, Albany, and vicinity, No. 7, of the International Union, ask all affiliated bodies of the American Federation of Labor in convention assembled, to stamp their disapproval of wholesale boycotts on Troy ale and porter, promulgated by the National Brewery Workers' Union, until such time as the National Brewery Workers' Union shall comply with the resolution of the Coopers' International Union.

FRANK B. WESTFALL, President.

JOS. S. O'SULLIVAN, Secretary *pro tem*.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts:

Resolution No. 34.—By Delegate McCabe:

After four years of suffering and fighting starvation wages, we finally succeeded through organization in raising our wages to the living point. All employers in the United States acceded to our demands with the exception of three firms, namely: The Valteau Co., 506 Broome St., J. J. Keeley, 115 Third avenue, both of New York City, and John Clarke, of 936 and 938 Dudley street, Philadelphia. We think the trouble in the Valteau Co. could have been settled had it not been for the influence of one journeyman over a few weak-minded men, who seemed to have the impression that the lower the wages the more work they would have. Through fostering that belief, these three firms have gathered together all the cheap labor in the trade, and have thus been an obstacle to the advancement of organized labor. In the case of the Valteau Co. the majority of the men actually live in the workshop, working day and night for the past two years, and yet their wages do not average \$10 per week.

In the case of John J. Keeley, of 115 Third avenue, after having attended a meeting of employers who agreed to our demands, and thinking he saw a possible chance to increase his business at the expense of the workmen he immediately took advantage of the situation, and offered his men the old rate of wages, which they refused to accept, and he is, up to the present time, employing non-union help.

The case of John Clarke is a good illustration of the unwillingness of employers to enter into fair competition. Mr. Clarke, in the past eight or ten years, has built up a business on cheap labor, employing hands on the piece-work system and paying them the lowest wages paid in the United States to-day, but allowing them long hours, thus securing their product far below that of any manufacturer in the business. He has utterly ignored our organization and refused positively to accede to our demands.

All that is necessary is to notify these three firms, Valteau Co., 506 Broome St., John J. Keeley, 115 Third Avenue, New York, and John Clarke, 936 and 938 Dudley St., Philadelphia, that their product is not wanted until they recognize the rights of organized labor and settle their differences with the union which they have tried so hard to disrupt.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 35.—By Delegate O'Sullivan, by request:

WHEREAS, Machinery has enormously increased the producing capacity of this country, with the result of frequent periods of overstocked markets and idle mills;

RESOLVED, That the policy of our government should be to widen our markets and thus give continuous employment to our labor and capital.

RESOLVED, That as one means to this end, the development of an American merchant marine should be encouraged. Steamship lines work for their own countries just as railroad lines do for their terminal points, and we can never hope for the full development of our foreign commerce until we have American ships to distribute American goods. We should profit by the example of our competitors for the world's trade and help establish and sustain steamship lines until sufficient business is developed to make them self-sustaining. While not opposed to a creditable navy, we do not need a fleet of government yachts, but do need a fleet of merchant steamers, which are nearly self-sustaining in time of peace, and which are available as a marine militia in time of war.

RESOLVED, That the industry of ship building, which utilizes American materials and employs American labor in its numberless ramifications, from the mining of the ore to the weaving of the colors, should be as much encouraged and protected as any other American industry, and in the name of American labor, we say to our legislators: "Don't give up the ship."

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 36.—By Delegate Ross:

WHEREAS, One of the largest classes of wage-earners in the country are the textile workers; and,

WHEREAS, The hours of labor in that industry are greater than in any other industry; and,

WHEREAS, This class of wage-earners is composed largely of women and children, who are unable to secure a reduction in the hours of labor, through organization, and are consequently dependent upon state legislation for progress in this direction; and,

WHEREAS, State legislation on the subject of the hours of labor has been very unsatisfactory because of its decided lack of uniformity in different states; and the Massachusetts legislature has adopted resolutions calling upon its representatives in Congress to seek such action as shall result in an amendment to the National Constitution to the end that Congress be empowered to legislate on the subject of the hours of labor; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor be, and is hereby, instructed to use its best efforts to have amended the National Constitution so that Congress shall be empowered to legislate on the subject of the hours of labor.

Referred to Committee on Eight Hours.

Resolution N. 37.—By Delegate Ross:

WHEREAS, This convention learns with regret of the proposed reduction in wages of the

textile workers in the great textile center of Fall River;

RESOLVED, That this convention tender its sympathy to the textile workers of the north, and instruct its Executive Council to render all possible assistance in the event of a strike.

Resolution No. 38.—By Delegates White and Koch:

WHEREAS, The American Tobacco Company has been for two years under the ban of organized labor; and,

WHEREAS, The American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled in New York, after due investigation endorsed the boycott placed by the National Tobacco Workers' Union of America upon this trust, and re-endorsed the same at the Cincinnati convention; and,

WHEREAS, The American Tobacco Company continue their antagonism toward the Tobacco Workers, and have just recently bought out the American Eagle Tobacco Company, of Detroit, Mich., which was a union factory up to the time of the purchase by the trust, and was using the label on its products; and

WHEREAS, Much of the products of the American Eagle Tobacco Company are in the market bearing our label; and

WHEREAS, All such brands of tobacco are now classed as unfair and belonging to the trust; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled in Nashville, Tenn., do re-affirm their former endorsements of the boycott on the American Tobacco Company trust. Be it further

RESOLVED, That the delegates attending this convention be requested, upon their return to their respective localities, to lay the matter before their respective unions, urging that a greater assistance be given the Tobacco Workers in their efforts to down the tobacco trust, by driving their products out of the market.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 39.—By Delegates White and Koch:

WHEREAS, The Tobacco Workers have adopted for their protection a blue label; and

WHEREAS, The blue label is a true guide enabling union men and friends of organized labor to distinguish fair brands of tobacco from the unfair; and

WHEREAS, The Tobacco Workers are using every endeavor to secure the permanent establishment of their label in the minds of the public throughout the country; and,

WHEREAS, The Tobacco Workers are endeavoring through their blue label to better the conditions of those employed in the craft; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor re-affirm its endorsement of the Tobacco Workers' Union Label, and the members of all affiliated unions be requested when buying tobacco, whether plug, package, or twist, to patronize only those brands which bear the Tobacco Workers' blue label.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 40.—By Delegates White and Koch:

WHEREAS, There are now in force contracts held between the American Federation of Labor and certain manufacturing concerns, the same concerns also holding contracts with the Knights of Labor; and,

WHEREAS, The holding of two such contracts by any concern tends to foster dual organization in the craft employed in such concerns, and breeds factional dissensions and contentions; and,

WHEREAS, The existence of dual organizations in a factory prevents the proper enforcement of the regulations of the union of the craft to which those employed belong, the two factions being pitted one against the other, thus offering an opening for the employer to enforce such obnoxious rules as he may desire; and,

WHEREAS, It is the established policy of the American Federation of Labor to prevent dual organization in any of its affiliated unions, and endeavor to effect solidity in their ranks; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the incoming Executive Council be instructed to advise all manufacturers now holding contract with both the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor, that said manufacturers must annul the contract with the Knights of Labor, or the American Federation of Labor will be compelled to annul the contract held by them.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 41.—By Delegates White and Koch:

WHEREAS, By lack of organization throughout the southern states, labor is sadly depressed, wages as a rule being much lower than those paid in the northern states; and,

WHEREAS, The products made under the low wage system of the south, are mostly sold in the north, and come in direct competition with those made in the north, where a higher wage scale generally prevails; and,

WHEREAS, This low wage competition with southern products makes necessary reductions in wages in the more northern states in order to successfully meet southern competitors in the northern markets; and,

WHEREAS, Many industries are moving to the south to take advantage of the low wage system prevalent; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the incoming Executive Council be authorized to have appointed special organizers throughout the southern states to organize those employed in the industries there more thoroughly, and in this way raise the standard of wages up to those of the more northern states, rather than grade northern standards down to those of the south, thus effecting a benefit for the workers in both north and south.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 42.—By Delegate Klappetzky.

WHEREAS, On page 242, December number of the *American Federationist*, there appears a report of the doings of the organizers of this Federation; and,

WHEREAS, Among the various reports we find one from Organizer Sullivan, of Norwich-Conn., in which report said organizer states

that he has formed a union of barbers in his city; and,

WHEREAS, It has come to our knowledge that the organization formed is chartered by the National Barbers' Association, and affiliated with the central body of Norwich, Conn; and,

WHEREAS, The said National Barbers' Association is, and has always been, antagonistic to the Journeymen Barbers' International Union, this Federation, and all labor unions; and,

WHEREAS, The recognized organizer of our union has tried to secure the affiliation of the barbers of Norwich; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Organizer Sullivan shall be censured for not informing himself as to the *bona fide* unions affiliated with this Federation, and that the incoming President shall demand from him that he use all possible means to have the Barbers' Union affiliate with the Journeymen Barbers' International Union of America, and shall also instruct the central body of Norwich, Conn., that unless said affiliation takes place within sixty days, the barbers shall be expelled from the Norwich central body.

Referred to Committee on Grievances.

Resolution No. 43.—By Delegates Larger and Crouchley:

RESOLVED, That the present eight-hour law on Government work be extended so as to apply to the manufacture of clothing by contract or otherwise, for any department of the United States Government, and that all sub-contracting for the making of such clothing be prohibited.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 44.—By Delegates Larger and Crouchley:

WHEREAS, The continued arrival of multitudes of peoples from foreign shores tends to increase the army of the unemployed; intensifies the prevailing distress; lowers the standard of living, and makes more difficult the organization of the working people; and,

WHEREAS, While we believe that our republic should remain an asylum for the oppressed of all nations, we realize at the same time that immigrants not possessing at least an elementary education, and being without the means of self-support upon their arrival here, gravitate toward the slum district of our large cities, and more readily become the victims of unfair employers; and,

WHEREAS, The present law preventing the arrival of workmen who have previously entered into contract for employment is insufficient, there being little occasion for employers to contract for labor abroad when foreign workmen can be so easily induced to come; therefore,

RESOLVED, That this convention declare in favor of a law restricting immigration at least to the extent of debarring all immigrants over fifteen years of age (with the exception of aged parents and wives), who are unable to read and write in their own language, and who are without sufficient means or prospects for immediately becoming self-supporting.

Referred to Committee on President's Report.

Resolution No. 45.—By Delegate Elderkin:

WHEREAS, There are on our "We Don't Patronize List," several establishments which have been on the same for years; and,

WHEREAS, The boycott is too important and effective a weapon to be thus blunted;

RESOLVED, That the Committee on Labels and Boycotts be instructed to consider ways and means of revising the "We Don't Patronize List."

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 46.—By Delegate Elderkin:

WHEREAS, There are on our "We Don't Patronize List," several establishments which have been on the same for years without, as it appears, and notable results; and

WHEREAS, The boycott is too important and effective weapon to be thus blunted;

RESOLVED, That the Committee on Labels and Boycotts be instructed to consider ways and means of revising the "We Don't Patronize List."

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 47.—By Delegates Larger and Crouchley:

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council devote special attention to the interests of the affiliated unions in Canada; and further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council and Legislative Committees of the American Federation of Labor co-operate with the Dominion Trades Congress in endeavoring to secure the passage of favorable labor legislation in the Canadian Parliament.

Referred to Committee on President's Report.

Resolution No. 48.—By Delegate McNeill:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, hereby pledges its hearty co-operation to such associations as seek to secure one day of rest in seven for all wage-workers.

Referred to Eight-hour Committee.

Resolution No. 49.—By Delegate Miller:

No Central Labor Union shall be permitted to unseat the delegates of any affiliated Union, or expel an affiliated Union, except by written charges being preferred and fair trial given, the result of which shall be subject to appeal to the Executive Council, and such Union shall remain in good standing until the Executive Council has rendered a decision on this appeal.

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 50.—By Delegate Tigh:

WHEREAS, It is essential to the best interests of the oil workers of the United States and to the Oil Well Workers' Union, No. 6971, American Federation of Labor, that the American Federation of Labor do all in its power to assist in organizing the oil well workers of the United States.

RESOLVED, Therefore, that the delegate from the Central Labor Union to the American Federation of Labor to be held in Nashville, Tenn., in December, urge upon the

American Federation of Labor to do all in its power to have the oil well workers organized.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 51.—By Delegate Tighe:

In view of the fact that the oil well workers are, strictly speaking, unorganized, and as there are a large number of men engaged in this occupation, and in accord with the above request of Oil Well Workers Union, No. 6971, I would request that an organizer be sent to the oil fields.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 52.—By Delegate Leo:

Resolved that the organizers of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to make special efforts for the organization of coal handlers in the various villages, towns and cities throughout the United States.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 53.—By Delegate Ludwig:

WHEREAS, The United Brotherhood of Leather Workers, an organization established two years ago with a membership then of two hundred (200) members, and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, has filed letters of protest against the local Union of Leather Workers of Louisville, Ky., with the American Federation of Labor and the Louisville Central Labor Union, for the reason that the said local union would not connect itself with the so-called United Brotherhood of Leather Workers; and

WHEREAS, The Louisville local Union of Leather Workers stands ready and are anxious to belong to a national union, when such organization is conducted on practical and beneficial lines; but the United Brotherhood of Leather Workers, with headquarters at Kansas City, Mo., is a national organization in name only, struggling, as it has for two years, with benefits it cannot pay to its members, with high and exorbitant dues its members cannot pay, while its membership has decreased from 200 members to 160 members; be it

RESOLVED, That Delegate Ludwig, of the Central Labor Union, and Delegate McGill, from Federal Labor Union, No. 6873, be requested to bring this matter before the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of uniting the leather workers of the United States under one national head, conducted on such lines as will prove of benefit to the leather working trades.

Referred to Committee on Grievances.

Resolution No. 54.—By Delegates Kleinhertz and O'Dea:

WHEREAS, The International Printing Pressman and Assistants Union of North America are about to introduce a shorter work day for all under its jurisdiction; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the officers of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to render all assistance in their power, and the organizer be instructed to give special assistance to organizing printing pressmen and assistants throughout North America.

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 55.—By Delegate Fitzgerald:

WHEREAS, The repeated abuses of this country's very liberal immigration policy; the

regular evasion of laws extending generous privileges and opportunities to the oppressed of all nations; and the increasing degradation and displacement of American workmen by the importation and employment upon our public works of cheap labor from foreign lands, have opened the eyes of our wage-earners to the fact that a system of protection which operates merely to exclude a few foreign products, while attracting and admitting hordes of foreign producers, is a curse instead of a blessing to home industry; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By this convention, representing 98,000 trades unionists of New York State—and thus voicing the suppressed appeal of two million unemployed but willing workers throughout the United States—that we recommend to Congress the enactment of a federal law suspending immigration for a period of five years, and until such further time as the domestic demand for labor shall have overtaken the supply; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That steps be taken to notify the workers of the world that we believe the interests of international brotherhood demand this action, for the good of all concerned.

Referred to Committee on President's Report.

Resolution No. 56.—By Delegate Larger:

WHEREAS, The continued arrival of multitudes of people from foreign shores tends to increase the army of the unemployed, intensifies the prevailing distress, lowers the standard of living, and makes more difficult the organization of the working people; and

WHEREAS, While we believe that our republic should remain an asylum for the oppressed of all nations, we realize at the same time that immigrants not possessing at least an elementary education, and being without the means of self-support upon their arrival here, gravitate toward the slum districts of our large cities, and more readily become the victims of unfair employers; and

WHEREAS, The present law preventing the arrival of workmen who have previously entered into contract for employment is insufficient, there being little occasion for employers to contract for labor abroad when foreign workmen can be so easily induced to come; therefore

RESOLVED, That this convention declare in favor of a law restricting immigration at least to the extent of debarring immigrants over fifteen years of age (with the exception of aged parents and wives), who are unable to read and write in their own language, and who are without sufficient means, or prospects for immediately becoming self-supporting.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 57.—By Delegate McGill:

WHEREAS, The Steve Brodie New York Star Company has been displaying in their placard in scenery, the General Arthur cigar, manufactured by the Kerbs, Wertheim & Scheffer Company; and,

WHEREAS, The Steve Brodie New York Star Company having signified their intention of giving up their contract with said firm, and it is their intention now to comply with the demands of organized labor; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor endorse the action of the said Steve Brodie New York Star Company, which is owned by Gus Hill, the proprietor of a number of theatrical shows, and that the action of the Louisville Central Labor Union be endorsed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the President of the International Cigarmakers Union, instructing him to correspond and negotiate with the said company, with a view of formulating a contract by which the label of the International Cigarmakers Union shall be displayed on their placard in scenery, in place of the scab advertisement of the Kerbs, Wertheim & Schaffer Company.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution, No. 58.—By Delegate Hughs:

WHEREAS, The Coopers International Union, at the regular annual convention, held at Cincinnati in September, 1897, adopted the use of the blue ink rubber stamp on all slack work, and the steel stamp to be indented on the chime of the bung stave of the tap end of the barrel,

RESOLVED, That we trade unionist members of the American Federation of Labor in convention assembled, do hereby ratify the introduction of labels of the Coopers International Union; and do hereby recommend to adopt the same in the distributing of their product; and call on all members of organized labor to see to it that the aforesaid labels are placed on products in their vicinity.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 59.—By Delegate Priesterbach:

We beg to call your attention to the following facts, and at the same time ask your assistance and support in our just battle against voracious greed and extortion.

Up to the year 1893 the workmen of the malt-houses of this city received \$12.80 per week; in this year the wages were reduced to \$11, \$10, and \$9 per week, and it may be stated that the above is for seven days very hard and health-endangering work, lasting only seven to eight months a year. All appeals made by the central bodies of organized labor in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, and also the national organization of the United Brewery Workmen of the United States to the malt-house owners to end this shameful extortion, and to pay the certainly very reasonable minimum wage of \$12 a week, and to recognize the Malsters Union, have, up to this date, been of no avail. We have left no means untried; no sacrifice was too great to at least partly retrieve these bonded slaves from their drudgery. And since all our efforts have been in vain, and the greed of the plutocrats is still as great as ever, we appeal to all organized labor and all friends of humanity to morally support us in our fight, and compel the malt-house owners to pay their employes living wages, and also treat them humanely. Every friend of our cause should see to it that the beer made from this malt is drunk only by plutocrats.

That the malt-house owners' profits have been enormous is proven by the organization of the malt-house trust, and the immense capital backing it, and several malt-house owners of this city belonging to this trust, and the

above trust carries on methods which should be denounced. They own several of the union malthouses in this country, and when pressed for union malt they furnish the product of the union malt houses that belong to their trust.

The following is a list of malt-house owners that refuse to pay their employes fair wages: Milwaukee Malt Grain Co., Kraus & Merkel Malt Co., and Hausen Hop and Malt Co. Not members of the trust, but hostile to organized labor, are Gerlach Malt Co. and Froedert Bros. Malt House.

Again asking you to sustain us in our just battle, and hoping that you will do all in your power to compel the above mentioned firms to concede to our just demands, we remain, with fraternal greeting.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 60.—By Delegate Priesterbach:

As a special boycott is placed on one of the boycotted breweries of St. Louis by the Brewery Workers Union and the St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union of that city has proven successful and unionized it, it was deemed necessary to place a special boycott on the "American," or, as better known the "A. B.C." brewery, and the Hyde Park brewery, and as the first named brewery does a large business all over the country, we therefore request the American Federation of Labor in session assembled to endorse said special boycott.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 61.—By Delegate Ross:

WHEREAS, One of the largest classes of wage earners in the country are the textile workers; and,

WHEREAS, The hours of labor in this industry are greater than in any other industries; and,

WHEREAS, This class of workers is composed largely of women and children who are unable to secure reduced hours through organization and are consequently dependent upon State legislation for progress in this direction; and,

WHEREAS, State legislation on the subject of the hours of labor has been very unsatisfactory because of its decided lack of uniformity in different States; and,

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts Legislature has adopted resolutions calling upon its Representatives in Congress to seek such action as shall result in an amendment to the National Constitution to the end that Congress be empowered to legislate on the subject of the hours of labor; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor be and is hereby instructed to use its best efforts to have amended the National Constitution so that Congress shall be empowered to legislate on the subjects of the hours of labor.

Referred to committee on Eight Hours.

Resolution No. 62.—By Delegate Hughs:

WHEREAS, The Coopers International Union at the regular annual convention held at Cincinnati in September, 1897, adopted the use of the blue ink rubber stamp on all slack

work, and the steel stamp to be indented on the chime of the bung stave of the tap end of the barrel;

RESOLVED, That we trade unionists, members of the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, do hereby ratify the introduction of the labels of the Coopers International Union, and do hereby recommend all breweries, distilleries and mills to adopt the same in the distributing of their product, and call on all members of organized labor to see to it that the aforesaid label is placed on all products in their vicinity.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 63.—By Delegate Ross:

WHEREAS, This Convention learns with regret of the proposed reduction in wages of the textile workers in the great textile center of Fall River;

RESOLVED, That this convention tender its sympathy to the textile workers of the North and instruct its Executive Council to render all possible assistance in the event of the workers resisting the reduction.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 64.—By Delegate Klapetzky:

WHEREAS, On page 242, December number of the *American Federationist*, there appears a report of the doings of the organizers of this Federation; and,

WHEREAS, Among the various reports we find one from Organizer Sullivan, of Norwich, Conn., in which report said organizer states that he has formed a union of barbers in his city; and,

WHEREAS, It has come to our knowledge that the organization formed is chartered by the National Barbers Association and affiliated with the central body of Norwich; and,

WHEREAS, The said National Barbers Association is, and has always been, antagonistic to the Journeymen Barbers International Union, this Federation, and all labor unions; and,

WHEREAS, The recognized organizer for our union has tried to secure the affiliation of the barbers of Norwich; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Organizer Sullivan shall be censured for not informing himself as to the *bona fide* unions affiliated with this Federation, and that the incoming President shall demand from him that he use all possible means to have the Barbers Union affiliate with the Journeymen Barbers International Union of America, and shall also instruct the central body of Norwich, Conn., that unless said affiliation takes place within sixty days the barbers shall be expelled from the Norwich central body.

Referred to Committee on Grievances.

Resolution No. 65.—By Delegate Crouchley:

RESOLVED, That the incoming Executive Council endeavor to secure such legislation by Congress as would prevent clothing made for the United States Army and Navy or Indian Department from being made in sweatshops.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That the present eight-hour law on Government work be extended so as to apply to the manufacture of clothing for the Government by contract or otherwise, and that all subcontracting for the making of such clothing be prohibited.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

The convention adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

SECOND DAY—Afternoon Session.

The convention was called to order at 2 o'clock by the President, and the roll call taken.

Delegate O'Connell moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Adopted.

Delegate Kidd reported that the work of the Committee on Credentials had been finished.

Delegate Warner moved that the report of the committee be accepted.

Adopted.

Delegate Tracy, on behalf of the Committee on President's Report, reported as follows:

Nashville, Tenn., December, 1897.

To the Officers and Delegates of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

We, the undersigned, your committee on President's Report, desire to make the following partial report: We endorse the suggestion

of the President in relation to the formation of a National Union of Tilelayers, and recommend that he appoint a committee to assist the delegates from the Tilelayers Unions to perfect their organization. On the subject matter relating to the eight hour movement, we recommend that it be referred to a special committee. We recommend that the same course be pursued with the matter relating to convict labor.

Respectfully submitted,

M. FOX,
D. J. SULLIVAN,
A. FURUSETH,
WM. SILVER,
THOS. F. TRACY.

Moved that the partial report of the Committee be adopted. Concurred in.

The Committee on Resolutions recommended that Resolution No. 19 be referred to the incoming Executive Council for investigation and to report the result to the next convention.

Moved by Delegate Doyle that it be referred

to the incoming Executive Council to investigate.

Mr. Gompers asked what the committee wanted investigated.

Mr. McNeill stated that the citizens of Washington up to twenty years ago enjoyed full citizenship, when it was taken away by corrupt methods.

Delegate Silver: The citizens of the District of Columbia can not raise their voice in the management of the affairs of the District. I hope the convention will give this matter a full hearing, and give to it a hearty support.

Delegate Kref: I am somewhat surprised at the remarks of the gentleman on my right. If we would use the right of franchise as we should, it would be a benefit. I believe that this convention should put itself on record as favoring the extension of the right of franchise to all parts of this country where it does not now exist.

Recommendation of Committee concurred in.

Committee on Organization recommended the adoption of Resolution No. 11.

Delegate Sidener: The wage question and the hour question affect all organizations. We ask that the American Federation of Labor make special efforts through its organizers to organize the agents and canvassers. I believe that this is a question that every delegate should give special attention. The agent in refusing to handle scab goods will have the effect of driving such goods from the market.

Adopted.

That Resolution No. 7 be concurred in.

Adopted.

That Resolution No. 12 be referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts. So referred.

That Resolution No. 22 be referred to incoming Executive Board. Concurred in.

That Resolution No. 24 be concurred in.

Adopted.

The Committee on Resolutions offered the following as a substitute for Resolution No. 17:

WHEREAS, There is at present pending in the United States Senate a treaty providing for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands.

RESOLVED, That annexation would be tantamount to the admission of a slave State, the representatives of which would neces-

sarily work and vote for the enslavement of labor in general.

RESOLVED, By the American Federation of Labor that we disapprove of annexation.

RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Senate to reject the treaty of annexation, and to take such other steps as may be necessary to maintain amicable relations with Hawaii.

Delegate Furuseth stated that planters are more than eager to employ American labor. They attempted to bring German, Scandinavian and other contract labor here to supplant Americans, but in every instance it has proved a failure. There is nothing in the Constitution of the United States that would prohibit any State in the Union from passing a law that would give the employer the right to arrest a man who may leave his employment and return him to his former master. I think the American Federation of Labor is justified in putting its foot down so hard on this question that it would be felt from one end of this country to the other.

The committee's report was concurred in.

Resolution No. 1, withheld, was referred to Committee on Eight Hours.

On request of the Tile Layers, President Gompers appointed James Duncan to assist in organizing a National Union.

The President appointed the following committees:

Special Committee on Eight Hour Movement.—James Brennock, P. F. Doyle, T. L. Lewis, Geo. E. McNeill, Wm. B. Prescott, Walter Thompson, James H. Sullivan.

Special Committee on Convict Labor.—David Black, Chas. Hank, Henry Lloyd, Frank Dillman, M. Lloyd, Ernst Kref, James O'Dea.

Delegate McNeill moved that when we adjourn that we accept the invitation to view the statuary at the Parthenon.

Adopted.

Delegate Fahey moved that immediately after the call of the committees that the roll be called and delegates given information pertaining to municipal work and hours of labor.

Adopted.

The name of August Priesterbach was transferred from the Grievance Committee to the Committee on Labels and Boycotts, and the name of John L. Hedberg from the Committee on Labels and Boycotts to the Grievance Committee.

At 3:30 the convention adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

THIRD DAY—Morning Session.

The convention was called to order at 9:10 o'clock by President Gompers.

Roll call ordered:

Absent—Valentine, Miller, Spencer, Bonbright, McGill, Schwartz, Conroy.

Delegate Lennon moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Adopted.

The Secretary read the following invitation, Communications, etc.

Nashville, Tenn., December 14, 1897.

President Samuel Gompers:

Dear Sir—I would be pleased to photograph the American Federation of Labor, in group, Wednesday, Dec. 15, on steps at south end of capitol, immediately after the noon adjournment, and extend an invitation through you to your honorable body. Trusting to receive a favorable reply, I remain, Respectfully,

OTTO B. GIERS.

Atlanta, Ga., December 13, 1897.

To the American Federation of Labor in National Convention, Nashville, Tenn., Greeting:

The Executive Board of the Atlanta Federation of Trades begs leave to represent that Textile Union, No. 122, is now on a strike at the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills of Atlanta, Ga.; that an appeal has been made by said union to the American Federation of Labor for assistance, and that the matter of negotiating a settlement of the difficulty has been delegated to this body. The merits of the strikers' cause have been carefully investigated by us and we find that their cause is just and worthy of all the assistance in our power to render. The causes leading up to this strike, together with the details of the situation, will be narrated to you by our worthy brother, W. L. Delay, President of the Atlanta Federation of Trades. He will acquaint you with our needs. The loss of this strike will be a death stroke to the organizations of textile workers in the South, and weaken all other labor organizations. The loss of this strike will result in the reduction of wages in Southern mills, which will so reduce the price of production of cotton fabrics as to destroy by means of competition the business in the North and leave members of the textile craft there without employment. We earnestly appeal to your body to take up the fight and help us to terminate it successfully. Funds are needed to provide for the necessity of the people who are out.

(Music Union.) E. A. DAVIDSON,

Secretary.

(Tailors Union.) WM. STRAUSS,

Vice-Chairman.

(Street Car Men.) F. N. SAWYER.

Kansas City, Mo., December 14, 1897.

Frank Morrison, Secretary American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Kansas City will give the delegates to the American Federation of Labor a hearty wel-

come. Our new convention hall will be completed for the meeting of 1898, and you will be in the home of your friends.

W. O. COX,

President The Kansas City Times Publishing Co.

Kansas City, Mo., December 4, 1897.

Frank Morrison, Secretary American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Dear Sir—On behalf of the people of Kansas City, I desire to extend through you to the American Federation of Labor, a most cordial invitation to honor Kansas City by the holding of your next annual convention here. The common council of the city and the Mayor have already adopted a resolution to that end, which has been presented to the Industrial Council of this city, and this invitation is intended to supplement that resolution and the personal work of the Kansas City delegation at Nashville, as an assurance of the pleasure which it would give Kansas City to entertain you, and of the hearty welcome which will be accorded you.

Kansas City is a city which, perhaps more than any other in this country, owes her success and her prosperity to the efforts of her workmen, her artisans, and her mechanics; and she desires to be distinctly known from one end of the country to the other as the staunch friend of organized labor. In common with myself, the people of this city are in strongest sympathy with your organization, and with the noble purposes which animate and bind you together.

With the hope that our invitation may be accepted in the spirit in which it is tendered, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

JAMES M. JONES, Mayor.

Centennial City, December 13, 1897.

Frank Morrison, Secretary American Federation of Labor:

Dear Sir—I wish to extend to your honorable body, while in session in the city of Nashville, an invitation to visit the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway exhibit in the terminal station on the Exposition grounds.

Although the Tennessee Centennial has drifted into a thing of the past, this magnificent exhibit which was awarded the gold medal for excellence above all others on the grounds, has been retained in order that visitors to our city from other States may have an opportunity to gain a knowledge of the great resources of this "The Land of Sunny Skies." I am confident it will be both interesting and instructive in every way.

The terminal station affords a splendid view of the Exposition grounds and also of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis shops, which are considered the largest and most complete works south of the Ohio River, whose President, Major J. W. Thomas, has ever been the friend of the laboring people. Again extending to you a cordial invitation to come and view the bounty of the fertile fields, hills, and dales of Tennessee, I am,

with best wishes for the success of your convention,
Yours truly,

P. M. GRIFFIN,
In charge of the N., C., & St. L. R'y Exhibit.

Delegate O'Sullivan moved that the names of O'Sullivan and Warner be recorded as present in first day's proceedings.

Delegate Kenchan offered as a substitute that all be recorded as present.
Adopted.

The Committee on Secretary's Report, Committee on Laws, Committee on Organization, Committee on Local and Federated Bodies, and Eight Hour Committee, reported progress.

The hour of Special Order having arrived, the roll call was taken, and delegates reported the number of hours worked and the wages paid on municipal work in their respective cities.

Delegate Bennett stated that printed matter was being distributed throughout the hall that did not bear the Allied Label, and moved that hereafter all matter not bearing the said label shall be excluded from the hall.

Delegate Elderkin moved to amend that where the printed matter comes from a town where the allied label can not be procured, that Delegate Bennett's motion shall not apply.

The motion as amended was adopted.

The following resolutions were introduced and ordered printed:

Resolution No. 66.—By Delegate McCall:

WHEREAS, During the past year the Retail Clerks National Protective Association submitted a protest to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor against the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, wherein the said retail clerks claim jurisdiction over men who by right of their craft and the rights of the charter issued by this Federation to the above named meat cutters and butcher workmen, should be members of that organization; and,

WHEREAS, Believing that disputes of this kind have a tendency to discourage the workmen of the country from joining either organization; and,

WHEREAS, A complete definition of the jurisdiction of both organizations would eliminate the possibility of any future disputes, and would be of benefit to both; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the representatives of the two organizations are hereby instructed to appear before the Committee on Grievances, there to state the position of their organizations as affecting jurisdiction, and said Committee on Grievances shall act as arbitrators, and after careful consideration and deliberation, shall report such recommendations as will tend to bring about harmony between the two organizations.

HOMER D. CALL,
Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.

Referred to the Committee on Grievances.

Resolution No. 67.—By Delegate Doyle:

WHEREAS, Bills have been introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States which are commonly and misleadingly called anti-scalpers bills, and,

WHEREAS, The real purpose of these bills, like the Pooling Bill, is to destroy competition, thus depriving members of the various crafts affiliated with us from procuring cheaper rates of transportation such as it is now possible to get from ticket brokers under existing laws, and,

WHEREAS, Said legislation is directly against the interest of labor organizations of the country, as such bills seek to deprive members in distress, members who are desirous to move to a more congenial clime on account of ill health, and delegates to distant parts, of low rates of transportation afforded under the present laws; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That we believe legislation of this class is inimical to the interests of labor, and condemn it, and we urge labor organizations to do likewise.

Referred to the Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 68.—By Delegate Lennon:

WHEREAS, Organizations of the workers of any craft makes stronger the position of all organized labor;

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor in convention assembled, knowing the deplorable conditions surrounding the custom tailors of certain cities, do hereby call upon the union men and women of Cincinnati, O., Detroit, Mich., Cleveland, O., Buffalo, N. Y., and Milwaukee, Wis., to make an earnest effort to organize the custom tailors.

Resolution No. 69.—By Delegate Hirsh:

RESOLVED, That this Convention demands the Government ownership of the telegraph lines of this country, and the officers of this Federation are hereby ordered to do all in their power to assist the International Typographical Union to attain this end.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 70.—By Delegate Tobin:

WHEREAS, The New York Convention of the American Federation of Labor, December, 1895, at the request of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, placed the firm of Harding & Todd, shoe manufacturers, Rochester, N. Y., on the unfair list; and,

WHEREAS, A settlement has been reached through the dissolution of the firm of Harding & Todd, and the organization of two new firms, who are now employing union labor;

It is therefore requested that the firm of Harding & Todd be taken from the unfair list.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 71.—By Delegate Mahon:

WHEREAS, There are now before Congress bills introduced by Cullom, of Illinois, in the Senate, and Sherman, of New York, in the House of Representatives, commonly known as the Anti-Scalping Bill, and,

WHEREAS, The intent of this proposed law is to restrict the handling of passage tickets to the authorized agents of the traffic association, combines and trusts, and to make it a penitentiary offense for any person to sell

or deal in railway or steamboat tickets, or for any individual to buy a ticket, except from the agent of the trust; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a railroad or steamboat ticket originally purchased of the company, and paid for at the company's price, is the property of the purchaser, and he has the same right to dispose of it as any other lawfully acquired property. Be it further

RESOLVED, That any legislation that would restrict the transfer by the owner or agent of the owner of a passenger ticket from one individual to another, or to deal in such transportation, is a serious blow against individual liberty. Be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, and representing the organized workmen in the United States, denounces the proposed legislation as vicious, oppressive, and un-American. It is a deliberate attempt by the trusts to deprive the producing classes, the unemployed, and the occasional traveler, from obtaining reduced rates through the brokers, but would force them to pay the trust rates.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 72.—By Delegate Black:

To amend Article IX, Section 4, by adding: "It shall be the duty of the Executive Council when they receive an application from a national, local, or federal union to place the products of any firm or corporation upon the 'Don't Patronize List,' to notify all other national, local, or federal unions whose members may be employed by said firm of the application, and if protests be received from these within thirty days, they shall be duly considered; and, if it shall appear to the Executive Council that the boycott sought for could not be made effective, or that the best interests of the movement would be served by denying the application, they shall so notify the organization making the application, giving them reasons therefor."

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycott.

Resolution No. 73.—By Delegate Tobin:

WHEREAS, The firm of Selz, Schwab & Co., of Chicago, Ill., has for years carried on a war of extermination against our organizations, until it is felt to be necessary to retaliate; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the matter be placed in the hands of the American Federation of Labor Executive Council with instructions to place the firm on the unfair list, providing a satisfactory settlement is not reached.

Referred to the Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 74.—By Delegate Tighe:

In view of the fact that there is a lack of harmony in our central bodies throughout the United States on account of locals of the same trade, of which one has a charter from the American Federation of Labor, and the other has not, be it declared that all trades which can affiliate and do not, be denied seats

in our central bodies affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 75.—By Delegate Tobin:

WHEREAS, The firm of Strong & Garfield Company, Shoe manufacturers of East Weymouth, Mass., who have been declared unfair by the Executive Council; and,

WHEREAS, The firm sets up the claim that they employed union men to take the place of our men, which claim we declare to be untrue; therefore,

RESOLVED, That no attention should be paid to the false representations made by this firm.

Referred to the Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 76.—By Delegate Kline:

WHEREAS, The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths have just affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, believing it to be to their best interest to be closely connected with a view of attaining a greater solidarity of labor; and,

WHEREAS, At the present time they are unable on account a financial depression to place an organizer in the field; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we request the American Federation of Labor to assist us in this work by requesting their organizers in all localities to organize the blacksmiths wherever found.

Resolution No. 77.—By Delegate Garland:

WHEREAS, The question of the establishment and ownership of a plant for making armor plate is now being considered by a commission appointed by action of Congress; be it

RESOLVED, We reiterate the action of the Sixteenth Annual Convention on Government establishment of an armor plant, pages 91 and 92, Proceedings Sixteenth Annual Convention.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 78.—By Delegates Klefheinz and O'Dea:

WHEREAS, The International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America are about to introduce a shorter workday for all under their jurisdiction; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That the officers of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to render all assistance in their power, and the organizers be instructed to give special assistance to organizing printing pressmen and assistants throughout North America.

Referred to Eight-Hour Committee.

Resolution No. 79.—By Delegate Hughs:

WHEREAS, Owing to the many differences that have arisen during the past year between the National Brewery Workmen's Union and the Coopers' International Union,

RESOLVED, That we, as members of the Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, request that the executive boards of both national unions immediately take steps to form a joint conference board to settle all differences in an amicable manner.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 80.—By Delegate McGuire:

RESOLVED, That inasmuch as we send fraternal delegates annually to the Trades Union

Congress of Great Britain, to more fully strengthen the bonds of fraternity among the organized workers, we therefore here decide to send one delegate annually to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, to more closely cement the interests of the Trades Unions of America.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 81.—By Delegate H. Lloyd: WHEREAS, The American Federation of Labor was established to completely unite under one head all the manifold branches of industry on trade union lines, with a view to advance, protect, and defend their individual and collective interests, and as there are a large number of the building trades now represented in this body, and the doors are wide open for all to enter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we deplore any tendency to divide or separate the organized forces of labor as injurious to the success and advancement of trades unionism; hence, we advise all unions under our jurisdiction to discourage any attempt to form a National Building Trades Council, as has been recently proposed, for the formation of such a body would be very detrimental and only tend to further divisions in the entire union movement.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 82.—By Delegate Warner:

RESOLVED, That the incoming Executive Board use their best efforts to consolidate the four departments of the Brooklyn Navy Yard under one head, to-wit: Construction department, thereby providing more permanent employment to employees; and also the establishment of a uniform rate of \$4.50 per diem to quartermen and a rate of \$4.25 for leading men. The departments are Construction, Steam Engineering, Yard and Docks, and Equipment.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 83.—By Delegate J. A. Murphy:

WHEREAS, The attitude of the United States Baking Company, and the American Biscuit and Manufacturing Company toward our locals and organized labor generally has not been changed, but the hostility of these rich corporations toward the demands of the journeymen bakers is rather on the increase; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor herewith re-endorses the boycott of the Journeymen Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union against these two firms; and further

RESOLVED, To recommend to the members of the American Federation of Labor and its friends, when making their purchases, to patronize such places as keep union labeled crackers and bread for sale, this being the best support organized labor can give in the struggle against these boycotted firms, and the more efficient means to help secure the rights of the journeymen bakers.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 84.—By Delegate J. A. Murphy:

WHEREAS, Trades unions, as such, should

keep entirely aloof from partisan politics, being essentially economic organizations; and,

WHEREAS, The headquarters of the American Federation of Labor have been removed to Washington, D. C., by the Cincinnati Convention, with the avowed or implied object of having our chief officers near the seat of the national executive and legislative bodies; and,

WHEREAS, This arrangement must lead to many misconstructions and criticisms of the actions of our officers in this line, detrimental to the confidence toward them on the part of the membership of the American Federation of Labor, and the interests of the latter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor be removed to an important industrial center, by which our chief officers will remain in closer touch with their constituency and the laboring people in general.

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 85.—By Delegate J. A. Murphy:

WHEREAS, The Journeymen Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union of America is hampered in its growth by the backward conditions in the baking trade and the headstrong opposition against organizations of this craft by nearly all employing bakers; therefore,

RESOLVED, To instruct the incoming President of the American Federation of Labor to give special instructions to the organizers of this body to organize the journeymen bakers and their local unions, wherever they can do so.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 86.—By Delegate J. A. Murphy:

WHEREAS, The question of further restriction of immigration will come up for final decision in this convention, to be made a special demand of organized labor; and,

WHEREAS, The Journeymen Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union holds that the bad condition of the American workmen does not come from excessive immigration, but from lack of organization and from the indifference of the laboring people to their true interests, or a misconception of them; and,

WHEREAS, Further restrictive measures would close the doors of our great country to a great many honest, intelligent, progressive workmen who would become true and ardent trades unionists, but who are poor and therefore unable to comply with a stringent restrictive immigration law; and,

WHEREAS, Trades unions on account of their progressive tendencies should be the last bodies of American citizens to advocate the turning away from our shores fugitives from European oppression, either political or industrial; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Executive Board of the Journeymen Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union of America to protest against any measure which may come up in the United States Congress against further restriction of immigration; and also

RESOLVED, To request the Nashville Convention of the American Federation of Labor to endorse this protest.

WHEREAS, The Journeymen Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union of America have an important struggle on hand against the New York Bakers' pool; and,

WHEREAS, The members of this pool have fought the locals of the Journeymen Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union of America in their district for years, and thereby prevented their growth; therefore,

RESOLVED, By this convention to instruct the incoming officers of the American Federation of Labor to issue circular letters to every one of its local organizations in New York and Brooklyn, N. Y., Hoboken, Newark, Union Hill, N. J., requesting them to do all in their power to help the Journeymen Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union win their great fight.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 87.—By Delegate Chalfant:

WHEREAS, The National Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees have always claimed jurisdiction over all work on a theatrical stage;

WHEREAS, The National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have conceded the point of claiming the work on a theatrical stage; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor recognize the right of jurisdiction of the National Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees over all work back of the proscenium arch or stage line in theaters.

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 88.—By Delegate Bennett:

RESOLVED, That the special efforts of the American Federation of Labor be made to organize the boiler firemen of the country, and that all engineer unions of the American Federation of Labor be asked to have their firemen join locals in the cities where there are such, and in case there are no locals, the central bodies be asked to organize the boiler firemen, and that a special effort be made to organize the firemen employed in breweries into firemen's locals.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 89.—By Delegate Lynch:

RESOLVED, That the incoming Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to take such steps as they deem advisable with the view to securing the appointment of factory inspectors in each state that at present has no such officer.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 90.—By Delegate Lynch:

RESOLVED, That the label of the Metal Polishers' Buffers' and Brass Workers' Union of North America be and is hereby endorsed and recommended to the public.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotte.

Resolution No. 91.—By Delegate Call:

WHEREAS, During the past year the Retail Clerks' National Protective Association submitted a protest to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor against the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, wherein the said retail clerks claim jurisdiction over men who by right of their craft and the right of the char-

ter issued by this Federation to the above named meat cutters and butcher workmen, should be members of that organization; and,

WHEREAS, Believing that disputes of this kind have a tendency to discourage the workmen of the country from joining either organization; and,

WHEREAS, A complete definition of jurisdiction of both organizations would eliminate the possibility of any future disputes, and would be of benefit to both; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the representatives of the two organizations are hereby instructed to appear before the Committee on Grievances, there to state the position of their organizations as affecting jurisdiction; and said Committee on Grievances shall act as arbitrators, and after careful consideration and deliberation shall report such recommendation as will tend to bring about harmony between the two organizations.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 92.—By Delegate Keefe:

WHEREAS, The unskilled labor of this country is not organized as their number should warrant; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, do hereby declare that the predominant question before this convention should be the organization of unskilled labor.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 93.—By Delegate Whitaker:

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council be instructed to carry out the resolution relative to sending an organizer into the intermountain country, passed at the Sixteenth Annual Convention, at its earliest opportunity.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 94.—By Delegate Whitaker:

WHEREAS, The several unions of the state of Utah, through the refusal of the Attorney General to defend the eight-hour law of the state, have been compelled to engage counsel to defend its constitutionality before both the state and United States Supreme Courts, thereby incurring an expense of \$3,602.50; and,

WHEREAS, A balance of \$1,262.50 of the above amount remains due and unpaid; and,

WHEREAS, The unions of that state are unable to meet this obligation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council be instructed to appropriate from any available moneys of the American Federation of Labor the sum of \$1,000 toward the payment of this indebtedness.

Referred to Eight-Hour Committee.

Resolution No. 95.—By Delegate Lynch:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, now in session, again endorse the boycott placed on the Overman Wheel Company, Chicopee Falls, Mass., manufacturers of the "Victor" and "Victoria" bicycles, they having violated an agreement entered into with the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers, and Brass Workers' Union of North America, and declared off by the Executive Board.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotte.

Resolution No. 96.—By Delegates Lynch, O'Connell, and Mulholland:

RESOLVED, That the bicycle label of the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers, and Brass Workers' Union of North America, International Association of Machinists, and the International Union of Bicycle Workers, jointly be and is hereby endorsed and recommended to the public for patronage.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 97.—By Delegate Lynch: RESOLVED, That this body endorse the boycott declared on the bicycles manufactured by H. A. Lozier & Co., with factories at Toledo, Ohio; Toronto, Canada; Westfield, Mass., and Thompsonville, Conn., for their unscrupulous policy of introducing women into their respective factories to replace men, and at fifty per cent less rate of wages.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 98.—By Delegate Lynch: Amend Article VI of the constitution by adding a new section, as follows:

"Section 6. The President shall appoint organizers in such localities as his judgment may direct, and shall grant them suitable commissions."

Amend Article XIII of the constitution by adding a new section, as follows:

"Section 7. Organizers' commissions shall in no case extend for a period of more than one year."

Amend Article XIII of the constitution by adding a new section, as follows:

"Section 8. Organizers shall be appointed or reappointed only upon recommendation or endorsement of the local, international, or national union of which the organizer is a member."

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 99.—By Delegates Lynch and Mulholland:

We, the representatives of the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers, and Brass Workers' Union of North America, and the International Union of Bicycle Workers, do hereby agree, in order to settle the dispute that exists between these organizations, to the following: That the members of said Bicycle Workers' Union in bicycle factories where roughing is done by members of said Bicycle Workers' Union, that they shall use no emery higher than 80.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Delegate Ross asked the privilege of the floor for W. L. Delay, President of the Trades Council of Atlanta, to make a statement in regard to the textile workers' strike.

Delegate Elderkin moved that the request be granted. Adopted.

The Secretary read the communication from the Atlanta Federation of Trades requesting assistance for the textile workers now on strike.

Mr. Delay made a few remarks explanatory of the textile workers' strike in Atlanta, and

stated that the letter read furnished more information than he could give the convention, and hoped the American Federation of Labor would take some action.

Delegate Mahon moved that a committee of three be appointed to report on the request of the Atlanta central body for assistance for the textile workers.

Delegate Ross said that an effort should be made to organize the people of the south, and that it is necessary that financial assistance should be given to help them win.

Delegate McNeill spoke in favor of supporting the textile workers on strike, and moved as an amendment that the committee's report be made a special order for 3 o'clock, and that they report at that time.

Motion as amended adopted.

The Chair appointed Delegates Mahon, Ross, and McNeill as committee.

Delegate Elderkin moved that the fraternal delegates be requested to address the convention immediately after the reading of the minutes this afternoon.

Adopted.

Photographer Giers extended an invitation to the convention to assemble on the east steps of the capitol to be photographed.

Delegate Noonan moved that the invitation be accepted.

Delegate Elderkin wanted to know if the photographer was a union man.

The motion to accept was adopted.

The Committee on Report of Executive Council reported, as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Your Committee on Report of the Executive Council beg leave to report that after giving a hearing to several parties interested in certain parts of the report, and a careful and thorough examination of the same, we respectfully recommend its adoption with the following changes:

First—That the matter of placing a boycott on the Worthington Pump Company be held in abeyance until another effort is made to adjust the trouble.

Second—That we recommend that the Executive Council insist on the fulfillment of the agreement made previous to the granting of the charter to the National Union of Steam Engineers.

Respectfully submitted,

M. D. RATCHFORD, Chairman,
ANDREW MURRAY,
WM. J. O'BRIEN,
ED. MOORE
GEO. A. WHITAKER, Secretary.

It was moved that the report be accepted.

Delegate Doyle moved as an amendment that the matters pertaining to the engineers be referred to the Grievance Committee.

Delegate Bregnock stated that the committee had not called for evidence.

Delegate Ratchford stated that the committee had asked for evidence, and it was not presented. He said that the committee wanted to see fair play between all parties concerned.

Delegate Bennett said that the matter should be thoroughly investigated, and it should not be rushed through.

Delegate O'Sullivan said that this matter could not be settled by this body, but must be settled by the unions involved.

Delegate Duncan said he wanted to know what objection could be raised to referring it back to the committee.

Delegate Elderkin moved as a substitute for the whole that it be referred back to the original committee. Adopted.

Delegate Glenn moved that the report be received as amended. Adopted.

Delegate Warner called attention to the fact

that the *Federationist* contained an advertisement of Siegel-Cooper Company, of New York, which firm was boycotted by the central body and Building Trades Council of that city.

Delegate Yarnell moved that it be the sense of this convention that the advertisement of Siegel-Cooper Company be eliminated from the columns of the *Federationist*.

Delegate Duncan stated that the granite cutters threw out an advertisement from their journal and were informed that for so doing they placed themselves liable to being refused admission to the mails.

Delegate McGuire said he had refused advertisements for the *Carpenter*, and it went through the mails and he had no trouble.

President Compers stated that no information had been received by the officers of the American Federation of Labor that a boycott had been placed on the firm, and that without a motion the editor would do all in his power to eliminate the advertisement from the columns of the *Federationist*.

The convention adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

THIRD DAY—Afternoon Session.

The convention was called to order at 2:10 o'clock by Vice-President O'Connell.

Roll call ordered:

Absent—Valentine, Rogers, Spencer, Bonbright.

Reading of minutes dispensed with.

The Secretary read the following letters and telegrams:

New York, N. Y., Dec. 14, 1897.

Samuel Compers, Nashville, Tenn.:

The Typothetae concedes to Union No. 6 nine and one-half hours until the date fixed by the International Typographical Union for shorter workday, then will concede nine hours.

SAMUEL DONNELLY, President.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 15, 1897.

Samuel Compers, President of American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Detroit, the Paris of America and home of Hazen S. Pingree, wants the next annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. Do what you can to let this be known.

Respectfully,

HAMILTON, CARHART & CO.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 15, 1897.

Samuel Compers, President American Federation of Labor:

The Florence Nightingale Association do hereby extend invitation to convene next year in Detroit.

ROSE MCBREARTY, President.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 15, 1897.

Samuel Compers, President American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

We urgently invite the American Federation of Labor to hold its next convention in Detroit.

GLOBE TOBACCO COMPANY.

Griswold House.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 15, 1897.

Samuel Compers, President American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Wish you would select Detroit for the next annual meeting of the American Federation of Labor, and the Griswold House for your headquarters.

FRED. POSTAL, Proprietor.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 15, 1897.

Hon. Samuel Compers, President American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Detroit extends a hearty welcome to your body for its annual convention in 1898.

WILLIAM C. MAYBURY, Mayor.

Kansas City, Mo., December 15, 1897.

Presiding Officer American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

A city that was built by honest toil and owes its present prosperity to the constant efforts

of a multitude of workmen, invites the American Federation of Labor to hold its convention in 1898 here. In the name of intelligent unionism and of organized labor everywhere, you will be made thrice welcome.

KANSAS CITY WORLD.

Detroit, Mich., December 15, 1897.

Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Accept invitation to convene next in Detroit. It will give extreme pleasure to the labor movement, and the mayor and citizens of Detroit.

SAM. GOLDWATER.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 15, 1897.

Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

The Michigan Federation of Labor extends invitation to convene next in Detroit.

HENRY C. BARTER, President.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 13, 1897.

To the Convention American Federation of Labor, Hall of Representatives, Nashville, Tenn.:

Co-Workers—The New Jersey State Federation of Trades and Labor Unions sends greetings, and asks for the following immediate and favorable consideration:

At the solicitation and through the earnest, untiring efforts of the New Jersey State Federation of Trades and Labor Unions—the state branch of the American Federation of Labor—a State Board of Arbitration was established by law in New Jersey in 1892. The presiding officer of the Board of Arbitration was selected by the then Governor, Leon Abbott, as the labor representative on said Board.

At the time of his selection as President of the State Board of Arbitration, Mr. J. P. McDonnell was Chairman of the Executive Board of the New Jersey Federation of Trades and Labor Unions. His selection was not pleasing to the capitalistic exploiters and their political party hirelings, and his energy in exposing the wrongs of labor gave them great offense. Through the investigations held by the Board, wide publicity was given to the ill treatment of the toilers, but while this had its good effect upon the masses, it aroused the antagonism of the capitalistic classes, and through the agency of newspapers and legislators hostile to organized labor, they succeeded in legislating the Board out of office. Not satisfied with this, the Senate Committee ordered the report of the Board to be suppressed because of the damaging exposures it contained in relation to the causes of numerous strikes which had occurred in the state during the existence of the Board. The plain facts were given in the report, and therefore the Senate Committee ordered its suppression. This was an unprecedented act in the history of the state government of New Jersey, or, so far as we know, of any other state in the Union. The suppression of a State Board's report under any circumstances is wrong, but more especially when that Board was established in the interest of labor, and when the report exposed wrongs which called for redress, it is an outrage which should be denounced by every labor organization and every fairminded man in this country.

We therefore ask you to denounce the suppression of this report, and to demand its publication by the state; and in the event of the

state authorities refusing to comply with this demand, which they are most likely to do, we ask you to contribute as liberally as you can toward the publication of the report, and its distribution throughout the country. The manuscript of the report is at present in the custody of the state authorities, but copy can be made of it. It is, of course, difficult to state what the cost of composition would be, as the copy is in the State House at Trenton, but a rough estimate places it at about 250,000 ems brevier. The actual cost of copying the report and the composition will be from \$150 to \$250 (estimated), which does not include the printing, but we will attend to the latter, and be satisfied with whatever the convention feels disposed to appropriate.

Requesting prompt and favorable action by the honorable delegates, and wishing every success to the convention, we are

Fraternally yours,

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

New Jersey State Federation of Trade and Labor Unions.

HENRY J. GOTTLÖB, Chairman.

T. J. M. HUGH, Secretary.

Delegate McNeill moved that it be referred to the Executive Council.

Delegate Brennock called for the reading of communication in regard to the boxmakers of Chicago.

Delegate Lennon moved that the communication be referred to the Committee on Organization without reading. Adopted.

The following communication was received:

Chicago, Dec. 11, 1897.

To the President and Members of the American Federation of Labor:

Gentlemen—At your last national convention held in Cincinnati (from 14th to 21st of December, 1896), a resolution was introduced by Delegate DeLong, which was passed (see page 102, report of Proceedings Sixteenth Annual Convention), revoking charter 6653, as it was obtained in violation of the constitution of the American Federation of Labor, and if said—

Delegate Doyle, rising to a point of order, objected to its being read, under Article III, Section 7, of the constitution.

The Chair ruled the point not well taken.

Delegate Doyle then called for the reading of the heading of the letter.

The Secretary then read: "American Federation of Steam Engineers, No. 6653."

Delegate Doyle then moved that it be not read for the reason that no such union was in existence.

The motion prevailed by a vote of 28 to 24.

The credentials of P. J. Geraghty were presented.

Delegate Hirsh moved that the credentials be received and the delegate be seated. Adopted.

On the call for special order the President introduced Fraternal Delegate Edward Har-

ford, who spoke on the condition of labor in Great Britain. He said he feared that they had too many trades unions and not enough unity. So far as trade unionism is concerned in Great Britain, it is now on trial. It is true that the trades unions are coming nobly to the front to help the engineers now on strike. He was in favor of consolidation of all trades unions of the world. It is a sad commentary upon the civilization of the United States when the railroads of this country kill or murder 1,811 employees and injure 83,000 a year. We have upon our rolls 1,300 children who derive financial benefits from our organization. He said he was disappointed in not seeing some of the railroad organizations represented in this convention.

Fraternal Delegate Wilson, on being introduced, said that it had been the one ambition of his life to spread the international movement all over the world. No matter where you go, you find the employer determined to get all he can out of the workingman. They used to think that the foreigner was the cause of all their trouble, but he was proud of the fact that the movement fully recognizes to-day that there is one solution—trades unions organized on international lines. That there is a strong feeling in the minds of many delegates that we conduct our business better than you do. He was not ashamed of his country, and was rather proud of being a Britisher. He said that they did about ten times as much business, but that it was the quality, not quantity, that it should be judged by. We have larger and wealthier unions, but we have just as many unorganized. He said he noticed that in this country there is an earnest desire to have all trades organized, which desire does not exist in his country. The Engineers' Union is in a very dangerous position to-day. No matter what happens to the trades unions on the other side of the water it will also happen on this side. He also stated that the Pinkertons had reached the other side, and with them the secret service, that it had its detectives in the different unions to spot those who were active in the movement. In conclusion, he said: I can only assure you from the bottom of my heart, and I trust that the exchange of fraternal greetings will continue, and that when he returned he would advocate the proposition that fraternal delegates should have a voice and vote in the meetings.

President Compers requested Vice-President McGuire to respond.

In replying to the fraternal delegate's re-

marks Vice-President McGuire said that the foe the American laborer is compelled to fight is also the foe of the laborer of all countries. The sacrifices of the pioneer in the labor movement were almost beyond belief. We have much to learn, and by the visits of the delegates from Great Britain much good is accomplished. On the other side of the water the trades unions are experiencing a crucial test. While they may not gain immediately in their efforts to resist the encroachments of the capitalists, they will in the end triumph. There is no place on earth where wages are higher and hours shorter than in Great Britain. He was sure that the fraternal delegates would take back with them the best wishes of the American trades unionists.

Delegate Myers moved that the floor be granted to Professor Cardoza. Adopted.

Professor Cardoza said he desired to return his thanks for the kindness and courtesies shown him by the delegates.

Delegate Mahon called for the special order, which was the report on the request for assistance for the textile workers of Atlanta.

The committee reported, as follows:

To the President and Delegates of the American Federation of Labor:

Gentlemen—The special committee appointed to report upon the strike of the textile workers of Atlanta, Georgia, respectfully report:

For some years past the American Federation of Labor has assisted in the organization of the men and women employed in the textile industry of the south. Great difficulties were encountered, consequent upon the fact that the manufacture of cotton was a new industry in those states. The people called into employment were ignorant of the trade union movement. At last a good commencement has been made, and we believe that whenever a cotton mill is erected it will be followed by the organization of the employees.

In Atlanta, the factory where the present strike is on, a strike occurred some months ago. The factory was unionized, and after a short time the men and women engaged in the strike were discharged. The life of the union was at stake, and the men and women are again on strike.

The National Textile Union is now officered by true union men, and they appeal to the American Federation of Labor and affiliated unions to aid them. Their day of labor has been inhumanly long. In no civilized country of the globe are the hours of labor so long in this industry as in some of the southern states. Their wages have necessarily been very low, and but a small fund has been accumulated for the day of trouble.

The textile industry everywhere is now in a deplorable condition. The long hours and low wages of the southern workers is used as a pretext to make war upon the shorter workday of the eastern states. In a measure as affecting the coarser grades of cotton cloth, the long hours and low wages have caused reductions in other states. To-day notices of a reduction of from ten to twelve per cent of

wages are posted in the factories of the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

With these facts before us, it is imperative that immediate and continuous steps be taken to assist the southern union to secure shorter hours and higher wages. The southern operatives must be taught the lesson of our experience, and they should be made to understand by fraternal deeds, as well as sympathetic words, that there is no north, no south, no east, no west; no craft or creed lines in the trades union movement.

We therefore recommend the passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor give such immediate financial aid as in their judgment is advisable, and as the funds will warrant.

That the President of the Federation be requested to either go in person, or send some one familiar with the textile industry, to visit and advise these people in their struggle, and that the incoming Executive Council shall give such further assistance and encouragement as shall in their judgment be advisable.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. E. MCNEILL, Chairman,
SAMUEL ROSS, Secretary,
W. D. MAHON,

Committee.

Moved by Delegate O'Sullivan that the report be accepted and recommendation concurred in. Adopted.

Delegate Kraft said that financial aid should be sent immediately.

Delegate Mahon said that Delegate Krefl expressed the sentiments of the committee.

Delegate McNeill said here was an opportunity to teach some one a lesson. Something must be done, and must be done now.

Delegate Lloyd said: "I hope the American Federation of Labor will contribute liberally."

The recommendation of the committee was adopted.

The discussion of the "ad." of Seigel-Cooper in the *Federationist* was resumed.

Delegate Myers moved to amend that the matter be referred to the incoming Executive Council.

Delegate Mahon moved the previous question. Adopted.

Motion to refer was carried.

The following resolutions were introduced by unanimous consent:

Resolution No. 100.—By Delegate Bennett:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor prohibit any member or affiliated unions, or oppose any person, from appearing before any Legislature in opposition to the Engineers' or Firemen's License Law, that is of a benefit to unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor in the various cities and states throughout the country, except it be of more benefit and has the endorsement of such affiliated locals.

Referred to Committee on Local and Federated Unions.

Resolution No. 101.—By Delegate Hoffner:

RESOLVED, That the President give to the convention his reason for not attending the labor convention called by the miners and held in St. Louis.

Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 102.—By Delegates Priestersbach and Mahoney:

WHEREAS, The unfair breweries in St. Louis, Mo., known as the St. Louis Brewery Association, are still refusing to recognize the Brewery Workers' Unions of that city, and are trying all means in their power to disrupt the organization of Brewery Workers, we therefore request the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, to re-endorse the boycott placed on said breweries, and that all affiliated unions be instructed to warn their members against patronizing the unfair products of the aforesaid firms until such a time as they see fit to make peace with organized labor and grant fair conditions to their employees.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 103.—By Delegate Priestersbach:

As the breweries of Omaha, Neb., and La Crosse, Wis., have locked out their union employees and persistently refused to make a peaceable settlement with organized labor, we therefore kindly request the endorsement of the boycott placed on said breweries by the Brewery Workers' Union and the central body of that city.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 104.—By Delegate Hank:

WHEREAS, The brickmakers are yet unorganized in many of our villages, towns, and cities; and,

WHEREAS, The officers of the National Brickmakers' Alliance are making special efforts to organize all brickmakers;

RESOLVED, That the organizers of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to make special efforts for the organization of all unorganized brickmakers.

Referred to Committee on organization.

Resolution No. 105.—By Delegate Priestersbach:

Gentlemen—Taking notice of a resolution by the International Coopers' Union, to be submitted to your honorable body, Brewers' Local Union No. 12, of Cincinnati, hereby protests against the consideration of said resolution by your convention for the following reasons:

1. It is not true that members of Brewers' Union No. 12 do coopers' work in Cincinnati union breweries, except such as has always been done and must be done by brewers.

2. Coopers have at no time been hindered by Brewers' Union No. 12, or its members, in their employment in breweries.

3. The coopers have always energetically refused to accept machine coopers as members.

4. We are of the opinion that the coopers should first organize themselves, and not de-

mand of the Brewers' Union to organize the coopers' craft.

5. We cannot jeopardize the existence of our own union as long as the coopers cannot agree among themselves upon the simple question of who shall be entitled to membership in their union.

6. Every one of the breweries in Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport has contracts with Brewers' Union No. 12, and as long as our union is part of the National Union of Brewery Workmen, of the American Federation of Labor, and of the Central Labor Council of Cincinnati, we must, ourselves, enter our vigorous protest against the consideration of such a totally unfounded resolution by your convention.

Respectfully submitted, by order of Brewers' Local Union No. 12, of Cincinnati, O.,
A. L. COLNOT, Secretary.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 106.—By Delegate Mahoney:

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor select one of its members to appear before the annual convention of the Bricklayers' International Union and invite said Union to affiliate with this body.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 107.—By Delegate Leo:

RESOLVED, That the President of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to notify all organizers to collect and forward to headquarters all seals and lapsed charters of suspended unions, the person or persons holding the seal to be paid the cost price of same whenever demanded.

Referred to Committee on Local and Federal Bodies.

Resolution No. 108.—By Delegate Glenn:

WHEREAS, The International Association of Machinists, at their convention held in May of the present year, submitted to a referendum vote of their membership a demand for a universal eight hour work day in the shops where their members are employed; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor give all the support possible toward organizing the machinists preparatory for the struggle on the first of May, 1898, provided the vote of the members favor the attempt.

Referred to Eight-Hour Committee.

Resolution No. 109.—By Delegate Glenn:

WHEREAS, The International Association of Machinists, at their convention held in May of the present year, submitted to a referendum vote of their membership a demand for a universal eight hour work day; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor give all the support possible toward organizing the machinists preparatory to the struggle on the first of May, 1898, provided the vote of the membership favors the attempt.

Referred to Eight-Hour Committee.

Resolution No. 110.—By Delegate Warner:

WHEREAS, The firm of Siegel, Cooper & Co. being placed upon the unfair list by the central labor body; be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor endorse the same, and publish in the *Federationist*.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 111.—By Delegate Murphy, (Boston):

WHEREAS, It is a well-known fact that there will be an effort made at this session of Congress to pass a bill restricting immigration; and,

WHEREAS, The bill in contemplation is directed principally against the poor and unfortunate, who, through no fault of their own, would not be permitted to enjoy the privileges we and our ancestors enjoyed; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, do hereby place itself on record as being opposed to the further restriction of immigration.

Referred to Committee on President's Report.

Resolution No. 112.—By Delegate Garland:

WHEREAS, There is now a bill introduced in Congress, of which the attached is a copy, providing for restriction of convict labor in all States and Territories;

RESOLVED, That this convention endorse the bill, and the officers of the American Federation of Labor use every influence to have this bill, or some bill of like intention, become a law:

A BILL

To protect free labor and the industries in which it is employed from the injurious effect of convict competition by confining the sale of goods, wares, and merchandise manufactured by a convict labor to the State or Territory in which they are produced.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every person who knowingly transports, or causes to be delivered from transportation, for commercial purposes, from any State or Territory in which they are in whole or in part the product of convict labor in any penitentiary, prison, or reformatory, or other establishment in which convict labor is employed, into any other State or Territory, or into the District of Columbia, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred and fifty dollars, nor more than five hundred, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both such fine as imprisonment, at the discretion of the court, and such wares, goods, or merchandise shall be forfeited to the United States; provided, that this act shall not apply to manufactured agricultural products.

Sec. 2. That it shall be the duty of the several United States District Attorneys to prosecute all violations of this Act when any person shall make complaint under oath, and the same shall be heard before any District or Circuit Court in the United States or Territorial Court holden within the district in which the violation of this Act has been committed.

Sec. 3. That this Act shall take effect at the expiration of one year from and after its passage.

Referred to Special Committee on Convict Labor.

Resolution No. 113.—By Delegate Moore:

WHEREAS, We are informed that J. H. Paxton is to be appointed Railroad Commissioner; and,

WHEREAS, Paxton has shown by his conduct in resigning the high office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania, by telegraph, for the purpose of accepting an appointment as a Receiver for the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, and assisted in wrecking that company; and,

WHEREAS, Paxton has always shown an intense hatred for organized labor, and has on every occasion when an opportunity presented itself, used his official position to injure the interest of wage earners as instanced by his action in descending from the Supreme Court bench for the purpose of acting as a committing magistrate in the case of the Homestead steel workers who were on a strike, in order to throw the weight of his judicial posi-

tion into the balance against wageearners, who were struggling for living wages; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council be instructed to enter a protest against the appointment of Paxton as railroad Commissioner.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Delegate McGuire moved that we protest most emphatically against the appointment of J. H. Paxton as Interstate Commerce Commissioner by President McKinley.

The motion was adopted by a rising vote.

Delegate Myers moved to adjourn until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Adopted.

FOURTH DAY—Morning Session.

The Convention was called to order at 9 o'clock with President Gompers in the chair.

Roll call ordered.

Absent—Yarnell, McCabe, Moffit, Moore, Spencer, Prescott, Walsh, Geraghty, Rogers, Curran, McGill, Murphy.

Delegate Lennon moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Adopted.

The Secretary read the following telegrams:

Richmond, Va., December 14, 1897.
Sam Gompers, Nashville, Tenn.:

American Federation of Labor, greeting of Central Trade Council of Richmond, Va. Hold next session in Richmond. Guarantee good time.

THOS. KNOT.

Philadelphia, Pa., December 16, 1897.
Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Dear Sir—Organized labor in Pennsylvania thunders a unanimous aye in favor of your resolutions against ex-Judge Paxton.

GEORGE CHANCE.

Kansas City, Mo., December 15, 1897.
The American Federation of Labor Convention, Frank Morrison, Secretary, Nashville, Tenn.:

The United Brotherhood of Leather Workers on Horse Goods urgently request the next session of the American Federation of Labor to be held in Kansas City, Mo.

CHAS. G. KIMMEL, President.
CHAS. L. CONINE, Secretary-Treasurer.

Detroit, Mich., December 15, 1897.
Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Dear Sir—I extend an invitation to your honorable body to convene next in Detroit. I believe Detroit is not second to any in Amer-

ica in accord with the principles of the American Federation of Labor.

WM. RICHERT,
President Common Council.

Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Detroit, Mich., December 15, 1897.
Dear Sir—United Garment Workers of America, local No. 74, extend a cordial invitation to the American Federation of Labor to hold its next convention in Detroit, Mich.

MRS. A. NANGLE, President.

Detroit, Mich., December 15, 1897.
Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Dear Sir—The Label League of Detroit invite you to hold your next convention in Detroit.

JOHN STRIGEL,
President.

A letter was received from the Chairman and Secretary of the Joint Committee of the Armour Packing company dispute in regard to the recent negotiations with that company. Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Delegate O'Sullivan moved that at 2:30 p.m. the convention go into executive session on the eight hour question.

Adopted.

The following resolutions were introduced and referred:

Resolution No. 114.—By Delegate Tobin:

RESOLVED, That in future conventions of the American Federation of Labor, each fraternal delegate representing organized labor in any foreign country, be entitled to all the privileges of voice and vote that are now enjoyed by delegates from central bodies.

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 115.—By Delegate Fitzgerald:

WHEREAS, The recent Constitutional Convention of New York State, in its deliberations, apparently sought to minimize the competition of convict labor with free, honest labor; and,

WHEREAS, The action of the State Prison Commission, the legislative committees on penal institutions, and the superintendent of prisons has been, we believe, contrary to the spirit and intent of measures adopted by the Constitutional Convention, to wit: The establishment of a printing plant in Sing Sing prison by which it is proposed to employ large numbers of prisoners to do work that will deprive hundreds of honest, free men from earning a livelihood; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, that such a proceeding is vicious in principle and incorrect in theory, and this convention sets its stamp of disapproval on the same. We contend that the interests of the free laborer have a priority over those of the convict, that the policy which provides prisoners with easy berths and congenial employment, and turns deserving workmen into the streets to swell the ranks of the unemployed, is a policy that is radically wrong; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled in Nashville, Tenn., December 15, 1897, emphatically protest against the establishment of printing offices in the penal institutions of New York State, and that a protest, under the seal and signatures of the officers of the American Federation of Labor, be sent to Governor Black, Lieutenant-Governor Woodruff, and Speaker O'Grady.

Referred to Special Committee on Convict Labor.

Resolution No. 116.—By Delegate Leo:

RESOLVED, That the President and the incoming Executive Council investigate the differences between Shirt Ironers Union, No. 5388, of Troy, and the firm of Cluett, Coon & Co., to the end that the differences may be amicably adjusted.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 117.—By Delegates Yarnell, Miller, and Bonbright:

WHEREAS, The working people of the United States and the American Federation of Labor are on record as in favor of the formal recognition by the United States Congress of the fact that a state of war exists in the Island of Cuba; and,

WHEREAS, The President of the United States, and all members of Congress, were elected on party platforms pledging them to such recognition; and,

WHEREAS, The policy of delay on the part of the present administration has reached the point where discretion ceases to be a virtue and becomes national cowardice and disgrace; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this convention that the United States Congress should waste no more time in useless debate and diplomatic chicanery, but should take such immediate action as may tend to put an end

to the indiscriminate murder of the common people of Cuba by the Spanish soldiery.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 118.—By Delegate Dillman:

WHEREAS, The stone quarries are so located over the United States that we ask the hearty co-operation of all organized labor to assist us in organizing all within our craft; we therefore ask all secretaries of different organizations to notify our National Union Secretary, P. F. McCarthy, West Dummerston, Vt., where, with the right influence being brought about, we might form a union, securing all within our craft.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 119.—By Delegates Larger and Crouchley:

WHEREAS, The firms of Cohen & Goldman, and Levy Horowitz, of New York; Moch, Berman & Co., and Heldman & Co., of Cincinnati, are notoriously unfair to union cutters, and the output of said shops is the product of the sweatshop;

The United Garment Workers ask that the names of said firms be placed on the "We Don't Patronize" list.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 120.—By Delegate Hofher:

To amend Article XII, Section 2, Constitution American Federation of Labor, by striking out in line two the word "instruct" and inserting the word "compel."

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 121.—By Delegate Askew:

To amend Article X, Section 1, by striking out all after "council," in third line, and adding the words, "May issue an appeal to affiliated bodies for such contributions as their funds may warrant," and strike out all of Sections 2, 3, and 4; and to amend Section 5 by substituting the following: "No appeal shall be made for financial aid by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor for any affiliated body unless such body has been affiliated with the American Federation of Labor for six months prior to the call for financial aid, and has paid six months' per capita tax to the Federation;" and to add a new section to be known as Section 3, as follows: "No part of the funds of the American Federation of Labor shall be expended for any strike or lockout."

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 122.—By Delegate Bazeley:

To amend Article III, Section 1, to read: "The convention shall meet annually at 10 a. m., on the third Monday in September at such place as the delegates have selected at the previous convention."

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 123.—By Delegate Bazeley:

WHEREAS, In the past the progress of the labor movement has been retarded by dual organization;

RESOLVED, That local unions of national or international unions, and all local unions chartered by this body, shall join only the central labor body of their respective cities which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Referred to Committee on Local and Federated Unions.

Resolution No. 124.—By Delegate Bazeley: WHEREAS, During the past year several disputes have arisen regarding the power of central labor unions in settling disputes between international unions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this convention appoint a special committee to define the powers of central bodies in settling such disputes.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 125.—By Delegate Yarnell:

WHEREAS, The written constitutions of the States of the nation, and also the constitution of the United States, provide that the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Supreme Courts of the several States shall exercise the right of reviewing legislation; and,

WHEREAS, In the exercise of the right so conferred, the courts of the several States, and also the Supreme Court of the United States have, according to the best authority, set aside as null and void from three- to four-fifths of all legislation enacted in the interest of labor; and,

WHEREAS, The exercise of such authority by the aforesaid courts violates the fundamental principles of a political organization which claims to be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people; and,

WHEREAS, The plain people are the source of all constitutional power, and no authority contained on paper, or exercised by the courts, can be greater than the will of the people when formally enacted into law; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, demand such amendments to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitutions of the several States thereof as will deprive the aforesaid courts of the power to set aside laws duly enacted by the representatives of the people.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 126.—By Delegate Bennett:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor go on record as disapproving of the contracts for the building of navy vessels being given to ship builders by contract when any of the United States navy yards are in a position to build such vessels and by doing so will do away with such a large bonus percentage as is given to such ship builders for speed of such ships, especially when such speed is got out of the vessels by hand-picked coal and expert firemen.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 127.—By Delegate Crosby:

Amend the Constitution by adding a new article, as follows:

Section 1. Before declaring or approving a boycott, the Executive Council shall investigate and satisfy themselves that it would be wise, just, and necessary to do so, and they shall also be satisfied that the probability of success would warrant such action.

Sec. 2. No boycott against any concern shall be declared or approved in whose employ are members of any other affiliated union, without first consulting with and securing

the approval of the proper authority of such union; provided, however, that if objections are made by any such union which may be considered unreasonable by the Executive Council, or if such union shall fail to act promptly in the matter, they may declare or approve such boycott.

Sec. 3. When a boycott has been declared or approved it shall be the duty of the union in whose behalf such action has been taken to send monthly to the President, for publication in the *Federationist*, if by him deemed advisable, such news of the progress of the boycott as in their possession.

Sec. 4. If a union in whose behalf a boycott has been declared or approved fails for two months to comply with Section 3, the President shall direct the Secretary to notify said union of the delinquency, and the Secretary shall so notify them. If the said union fails for two months after such notification to comply with Section 3 the Executive Council shall cause the name of the boycotted concern to be removed from the "We Don't Patronize" list; and if the union is not heard from in relation thereto within one month thereafter, then the boycott shall be declared off by the President.

Referred to the Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 128.—By Delegate Lennon:

To amend Section 1, Article IX, to read: "The basis of representation in the convention shall be from national and international unions, for less than four thousand members, one delegate; four thousand or more, two delegates; eight thousand or more, three delegates; sixteen thousand or more, four delegates; thirty-two thousand or more, five delegates, and so on. Only *bona fide* wage-workers and good standing members of their respective unions shall be eligible as delegates."

Referred to Committee on Laws:

Resolution No. 129.—By Delegate Lennon:

To amend Section 1, Article XII, strike out all after word "affiliated," in fourth line, to wit: "Under penalty of being denied representation in the annual convention of the Federation."

Referred to Committee on Laws.

Resolution No. 130.—By Delegate Murphy, (of Boston):

WHEREAS, The condition of the journey-men horseshoers of the New England States is deplorable, in as much as there are but five unions in that vast territory; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the President of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to make special efforts to organize the journey-men horseshoers in the New England States.

Referred to Committee on Organization:

Resolution No. 131.—By Delegate O'Sullivan:

RESOLVED, That in the passage of the resolution directing the Executive Council to present a bill for the establishment of Government savings banks, this body now in session in Nashville, Tenn., desires it understood that the bill now pending before Congress, with the exception of the clause providing for national banks as repositories, is satisfactory to the American Federation of Labor.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

The Committee on Resolutions reported as follows:

Recommended that Resolution No. 6 be referred to State branches without recommendation.

Delegate Klapetzky objected to the committee's report, and said that the conventions should take definite action.

Delegate O'Sullivan of the committee said that this could be referred without saying yes or no, and said he did not want the convention to go on record as endorsing something that it did not know anything about.

Delegate Bennett said that the firemen of Boston were better off since they obtained a license law. He said he was in favor of the report of the Committee.

Delegate Lennon stated, as a member of the committee, that if the working people expect to benefit themselves they must rely upon themselves, and said that the licensing of barbers did not benefit the barbers union one iota. He said that if this license law business was continued, the trades unions of this country would be wiped out of existence.

Delegate Doyle said that if the barbers expected to build unions upon license laws they would meet with failure. License laws are a detriment to the trade union movement, and no benefit could be derived from such laws.

Delegate Mahon said he thought the American Federation of Labor should go on record as opposed to license laws.

Delegate Elderkin called for the previous question. Adopted.

The report of the committee was concurred in.

The committee continued and offered the following as a substitute for Resolution No. 18:

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court in its decision in the Argo case has held that specific enforcements of contracts to labor are not inhibited by the Constitution of these United States; and,

WHEREAS, The several legislatures of the States may now enact laws under which men and women may be compelled to sell themselves for a term of years in order to preserve their lives, thus re-establishing the ownership of man by man; and,

WHEREAS, Such laws would cause the blood poured out for liberty during our civil war to have been shed in vain; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor do hereby most earnestly appeal to all lovers of their kind to watch for, and, if possible, prevent any legislation by any State Legislature, or by Congress, which shall in any way give force and effect to the principles laid down in this decision, the most far-reaching and of all judicial decisions, the one fraught with the most terrible consequences of any of the many important decisions handed down by this court; and, further

RESOLVED, That we urge upon Congress to blot from the present statutes the provisions which now make this principle enforceable upon seamen and fishermen.

Delegate Elderkin stated that slavery existed today as well as it did before 1861. The seamen of today are no better off than the slave of 1861.

The substitute of the committee was adopted.

Recommended that Resolution No. 30 be referred back to the delegate, it being only instructions to him, and not a resolution for this convention. Adopted.

Reported favorably on Resolutions Nos. 30 and 37. Adopted.

Reported favorably on Resolutions Nos. 43 and 65.

It was moved that the recommendations be concurred in.

Delegate Crouchley stated that he introduction of Resolution No. 65 was a mistake, and it was withdrawn.

Resolution No. 43 was then adopted.

Recommended to strike out all after the word "boycott" in line five, last resolved, in Resolution No. 31. Adopted as amended.

Recommended that Resolution No. 56 be considered when the subject of immigration be taken up. Adopted.

Recommended that Resolution No. 57 be referred to the President of the Cigarmakers Union of North America.

Adopted.

The committee offered the following substitute for Resolution No. 59:

RESOLVED, That we endorse the action of the Brewery Workers Union to maintain a better condition and wage for the malt-house workers, and recommend the trades unionists to render all the assistance in their power to help the Brewery Workers Union in their efforts to unionize the brewery workers.

Adopted.

Reported favorably on Resolution No. 62.

Adopted.

Resolution No. 63 withdrawn.

Committee on Organization reported as follows:

Recommended concurrence in Resolution No. 10. Adopted.

Recommended that Resolution No. 41 be referred to the incoming Executive Council to report on as soon as possible.

Adopted.

Recommended the concurrence in Resolution No. 51, to be considered as a substitute for Nos. 50 and 51.

Delegate McNeill moved that the matter be referred to the incoming Executive Council.

Adopted.

Recommended the adoption of Resolution No. 9. Adopted.

Recommended concurrence in Resolution No. 52. Adopted.

Committee on Labels and Boycotts reported as follows:

Resolution No. 58 withdrawn.

On Resolution No. 21, the committee recommends that the request be granted.

Adopted.

On Resolution No. 60, the committee recommends that the request be granted.

Adopted.

On Resolution No. 39 the committee recommends that the request be granted.

Adopted.

On Resolution No. 38 the committee recommends that the request be granted.

Adopted.

The committee recommends that Resolution No. 34 be referred to the incoming Executive Council for investigation. Adopted.

The committee recommends that Resolution No. 28 be referred to the incoming Executive Council, and further recommends that said officers correspond with the officers of organizations having labels, with a view to inaugurate the plan embodied in the resolution.

Adopted.

Delegate McNeill introduced the following resolution, and asked for immediate action:

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council be instructed to endorse the appeal of the Committee of the National Labor Testimonial to Joseph P. McDonnell, the veteran labor editor of the *Patterson Labor Standard*, a man who has suffered and sacrificed for the cause of liberty and labor in poverty and imprisonment, a trades unionist never compromising, never avoiding any responsibility, a man who has answered every call made upon him in the name of humanity.

Delegate Lloyd moved that the resolution be adopted. Carried.

Delegate Call requested that Resolution No. 91 be transferred from the Committee on Resolutions to the Committee on Grievances. Granted.

Delegate Leo moved that the report of the Committee on Grievances be deferred until it is ready to make a final report.

Delegate Mahon moved to amend that the committee's report be considered in executive session at 3 p.m.

The motion as amended was adopted.

The Committee on Local and Federated Bodies reported as follows:

Committee reports favorably on Resolution No. 107.

Delegate Doyle was called to the Chair.

Delegate Gompers moved that the latter part of the resolution, pertaining to the payment for seals, be stricken out.

Delegate O'Connell said this resolution should be laid on the table, as its adoption would cost the American Federation of Labor thousands of dollars.

Delegate O'Connell moved to lay the resolution on the table. Adopted.

President Gompers reoccupied the chair.

The Committee on Convict Labor reported as follows.

Nashville, Tenn., December 16, 1897. To the Officers and Delegates of the American Federation of Labor:

Your committee appointed to consider the question of convict labor beg leave to submit the following report:

In approaching the subject of convict labor and its injurious influence upon free and honest labor the investigator stands before one of those problems that have taxed the best thought and intelligence of penalologists, and the solution of which has not yet been successfully accomplished. Two facts are to be borne prominently in mind in approaching the question: First, the dictates of common humanity, the preservation of the health and morals of the convict, and the better fitting him to become a useful member of society, demand that he be employed at some productive occupation; and second, that the best interests of free labor demand that the product of convict labor shall be disposed of in such manner that it will not come into competition with the products of free labor. These considerations have always actuated organized labor in its efforts to secure relief from this iniquitous competition.

It is apparent that notwithstanding the fact that the percentage of convict labor productively employed is small in comparison to free labor; the fact that the labor of convicts has been concentrated upon a few industries, has by reason of large output, rendered it a distinct menace to the free labor employed in those industries, not alone in tending to displace it, but because the presence of these products, sold at prices much lower than could be offered by fair manufacturers, has furnished an excuse for the reduction of wages and the imposition of less favorable conditions upon those engaged in like industries outside of prison walls.

The first duty of the State is to protect the lives and property of its citizens, and these should not be infringed upon or endangered by any policy of the State. The convict should not be employed with the object of constituting a source of profit to the State, or to any contractor under the State, but that he may be, so far as practicable, self-supporting, and for humanitarian reasons.

To this end many systems have, during the past quarter of a century, been devised and experimented with; among these are the laws providing for the labeling of prison-made goods, the contract system, the State account plan, and piece-price system, all with the

avowed purpose of lessening the injury wrought upon honest labor by convict competition. But the result of these experiments has varied only in the degree of their failure. All fell short of expectations, and none afforded the relief desired.

With the advent of the year 1897, however, there was inaugurated in the State of New York a system that is a long step toward the solution of the problem of employing convicts at productive occupations with a view to minimize the competition of their product with that of free labor. That law is as follows:

The Superintendent of State Prisons shall not, nor shall any authority whatsoever, make any contract by which the labor or time of any prisoner in any State prison, reformatory, penitentiary or jail in this State or the product of profit of his work, shall be contracted, let, farmed out, given or sold to any person, firm, association, or corporation; except that the convicts in the said penal institutions may work for, and the product of their labor may be disposed of to the State or any political division thereof, or for or to any public institution owned or managed and controlled by the State or any political division thereof;

The law further provides, that the convict shall not be employed more than eight hours per day.

It was thought this law would remove all objectionable competition with free labor; but the addition of a subsequent section, which reads:

"The superintendent of State Prisons and the Superintendents of Reformatories and Penitentiaries, respectively, are authorized and directed to cause to be manufactured by the convicts in the prisons, reformatories, and penitentiaries, such articles as are needed and used therein, and also such as required by the State or political divisions thereof, and in the buildings, offices, and public institutions, owned or managed and controlled by the State, including articles and materials to be used in the erection of the buildings. All such articles manufactured in the State prisons, reformatories, and penitentiaries, and not required for use therein, may be furnished to the State or to any political division thereof, or for or to any public institutions owner or managed and controlled by the State or any political divisions thereof, at and for such prices as shall be fixed and determined as hereinafter provided, upon the requisitions of the proper officials, trustees or managers thereof. *No articles so manufactured shall be purchased from any other source for the State or public institutions of the State, or the political divisions thereof, unless said State commissioners of prisons shall certify that the same cannot be furnished upon such requisitions, and no claim therefor shall be audited or paid without such certificate.*

Has aroused the opposition of organized labor, in that it reserves for the convict much of the work of the State and its political divisions that is the legitimate work of its free labor.

The State of Pennsylvania has adopted a system, to go into effect, January 1, 1898, which prohibits the employment of more than five per cent of the inmates of the State prisons and correctional institutions at any one industry, and prohibits the introduction or use of labor-saving machinery in any of these industries.

This law, it will be seen, effectually

provides the remedy sought, in that it prevents the concentration of the labor of convicts to a dangerous degree upon any one industry, and minimizes the competition with free labor.

After due consideration of these and the less perfect systems in force in other states, your committee recommend that it be adopted as the sense of this convention that the best interests of labor will be conserved by the adoption of a convict labor law along the following lines, and would urge all affiliated bodies in the various States to work for its adoption by their State Legislatures, to wit:

(1.) The labor of any prisoner in any State prison, reformatory, penitentiary, or jail, shall be used for the manufacture of such articles as are required for use in the various State penal or correctional and eleemosynary institutions, and wherever practicable, in the raising of such farm and garden products as are required for use in these above-mentioned institutions.

(2) That the convicts shall be employed in productive labor for no more than eight hours per day.

(3) That all industries undertaken in these several institutions shall be carried on by hand labor.

While the general adoption of such a law would put an end to all competition from convict-made goods, the fact still remains that while only a few States have adopted such a restrictive law, free labor is still subject to a menace from these goods manufactured in the prisons of sister States, and we would, therefore, recommend that his convention endorse the provisions of what was known in the Fifty-fourth Congress as the Southwick Bill (H. R. 6116), and which, we are informed, has been again introduced at the present session of Congress, and that it be an instruction to the officers of the American Federation of Labor to use every influence in their power to have the same enacted into a law. The salient provisions of this bill are:

"That every person who knowingly transports or causes to be delivered for transportation, for commercial purposes, from any State or Territory in which they are in whole or in part manufactured, any goods, wares, or merchandise, in whole or in part the product of convict labor, in any penitentiary, prison, or reformatory, or other establishment in which convict labor is employed, into any other State or Territory, or into the District of Columbia, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred and fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court, and such wares, goods, or merchandise shall be forfeited to the United States."

The spirit of the bill presented to Congress by Congressmen Slayden, referred to your Committee, receives our approval, but we deem the needs of free labor best conserved by the adoption of the recommendations in the report.

Respectfully submitted,
D. BLACK, Chairman,
MILLARD LLOYD, Secretary,
F. M. DILEMAN,
ERNST KREFT,
CHARLES HANK,
H. LLOYD,

Convict Committee.

Delegate Garland moved the adoption of the report.

Delegate Fahey moved that the matter be amended so as to apply to United States prisons.

The Chair was requested to have the Secretary read the recommendation of the committee.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the Chair declared the convention adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m.

FOURTH DAY—Afternoon Session.

The convention was called to order at 2 o'clock by President Gompers.

Roll call ordered.

Absent—Spencer, Prescott, McGill.

Delegate Murphy moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Adopted.

Delegate Warner asked permission, which was granted, to correct a statement which appeared in a morning paper, which stated that the printers and the machinists had buried the hatchet. He was not aware that there had ever been a hatchet between the machinists and the printers, and wished it to be understood that the most amicable relations existed between the two organizations.

Delegate Lloyd offered the following resolution, and asked immediate consideration, which was granted:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor reaffirms its declaration that it welcomes to its ranks all labor, without regard to creed, color, sex, race, or nationality, and that its best efforts have been, and will continue to be, to encourage the organization of those most needing its protection, whether they be in the North or the South, the East or the West, white or black, and that we denounce as untrue, and without foundation in fact, the reported statement of Mr. Booker T. Washington, of the Tuskegee University, to the effect that the trade unions were placing obstacles in the way of the material advancement of the negro, and that we appeal to the records of the conventions of the American Federation of Labor, and especially to the records of the Chicago convention, as the most complete answer to any and all such false assertions.

It was moved that the resolution be concurred in.

Delegate Jones said that the white people of the South would not submit to the employment of the negro in the mills, and said that the union of which he was a member did not admit negroes.

Delegate Gompers said a union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor had no right to debar the negro from membership.

The trend of the movement is against cheap workmen. It was a matter of record only yesterday, when it was brought out that the intelligent white workmen had to expend money to educate the textile workers. If we do not give the colored man the opportunity to organize, the capitalist will set him up as a barrier against our progress. Every time we help these men it helps to raise the laborer to a higher plane. It is our purpose to aid and compel organization of the workers. It is not a question as to the color of a man's skin, but the power that lies in organization.

Delegate Lloyd said that he knew no North, no South, no black, no white in the labor movement, and that he came from the home of Wendell Phillips and William Lloyd Garrison, and did not ask our Southern friends to take the negro to their breast, but he did ask them to give to the negro the same bargaining power with capital that we accord to the white workers. The capitalist would be glad to use the black against the white. The only aristocracy that we recognize in the trade union movement is brains and brawn.

Delegate Fahey said he believed that the negro of the South could be educated up to the principles of true trades unionism.

Delegate O'Connell said that the statement of Booker T. Washington, that the trades unions were keeping the blackman in the South down was as absurd as to say that the white man of the North was against the white man of the South. You will find that the negro man of the South is taken to the North to take the places of the white man on strikes. This question at this late day seems to me to be ridiculous. Shall we allow any professor to say that we stand in the way of the elevation of God's common family?

Delegate McGuire stated that the intention of the resolution was simply to set us right before the world and the negro in particular. He said the trades unionists do not keep the white American boy or the black American

boy from learning a trade, and claimed that the bulk of the industrial laborers in the South consisted of negroes, and that in trade contests they were just as good as our white brothers.

Delegate Ratchford said that his question affects the unskilled laborer, more than any other. The moment you draw the color line in the American Federation of Labor, you debar the organization which he represents. Is the organized labor of the South in any way responsible for it? He believed it was, to some extent. If you want to legislate against the colored man, legislate him out of the hotels, and let him take the place of the girls in the mills, and put the girls in the hotels.

Delegate Mahon said that the remarks of Delegate Jones were not the sentiment of the trades unions of the South.

Delegate Klapetzky spoke in favor of the resolution.

Delegate Glenn raised the point of order that the time for the special order had arrived to go into executive session.

Delegate Jones demanded the floor.

Delegate Kenchan secured recognition from the Chair, and said that he hoped that every delegate who wished to speak would be heard, and that every Southern brother would have an opportunity to express himself.

Previous question demanded.

The Chair stated that he did not believe that it was necessary, and put the motion and declared it carried, while several members were on the floor demanding recognition.

Delegate O'Sullivan appealed from the decision of the Chair.

On the retaking of the chair by President Gompers, he recognized the appeal of Delegate O'Sullivan.

Delegate O'Sullivan claimed that he was shut off from speaking on the subject, and he wished to put himself on record, and therefore he requested permission to withdraw his appeal. Objected to.

Delegate Yarnell said he had no desire to shut off Delegate O'Sullivan, but the hour of special order had arrived and he put the question.

The Chair was sustained.

Delegate O'Sullivan requested to be recorded as voting to sustain the Chair.

The hour of special order having arrived, the convention went into executive session at 2:55 o'clock.

The convention arose from executive session at 6:05, when the following resolutions were introduced and referred:

Resolution No. 132.—By Delegate O'Sullivan:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor in convention assembled, endorses the following memorial to the Hon. Lyman J. Gage, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States:

The Chicago Federation of Labor and the Building Trades Council, the same being councils composed of delegates from various trades unions, representing a membership of about 100,000 in and about Chicago, respectfully petition that in each contract made in reference to the construction of the new government building to be erected in Chicago, there shall be adequate provisions made that the workmanship required upon the material for the building shall be performed within the limits of the state of Illinois, and that the work shall be performed by union workmen as far as practicable. In support of this petition the following reasons are assigned:

1. The state of Illinois is possessed of natural resources and manufacturing interest sufficient to supply the greater portion of the material necessary for the construction of the building.

2. The state of Illinois and its business interests contribute more to the revenue of the government than any other state of the Union. In support of this proposition the following statement of facts is presented:

The United States Internal Revenue receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, amounted to.....	\$146,830,615 66
Paid by Illinois.....	31,973,133 52
Paid by New York.....	21,620,470 64
Paid by Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.....	498,924 13
Paid by Georgia.....	478,070 59

Thus it will be observed that Illinois paid in internal revenue taxes \$10,352,662.88 more than New York, and in fact over twenty-one per cent of the entire internal revenue collected (see report of internal revenue commission, p. 9).

3. The gross postal receipts of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, amounted to \$82,499,208.00, of which amount the state of Illinois contributed \$8,046,945.00, or nearly ten per cent, and the city of Chicago contributed \$5,204,236.00, or more than six per cent.

4. The great amount of surplus labor, both manual and skilled, that has accumulated in Chicago during the past four years to a greater extent than any other city furnishes another very suggestive reason in favor of this petition.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 133.—By Delegate Yarnell: WHEREAS, The American Federation of Labor, in 1893, declared for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 before it became a great national issue; and,

WHEREAS, This action was reaffirmed at the convention of 1894, 1895, and 1896, and has been sustained in a great national contest

by over 6,000,000 of our fellow-citizens, 90 per cent of whom are producers of the nation's wealth; and,

WHEREAS, This measure received the combined opposition of the enemies of organized labor, and believing that the basic money of this nation must be expanded before the producer can hope to secure a fair reward for his toil; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in national convention assembled, in Nashville, December 13, 1897, does hereby affirm its former action of 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896 by declaring for the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the constitutional ratio of 16 to 1, without regard to the future action of any party thereon.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 134.—By Delegates Miller and Bonbright:

WHEREAS, Locals No. 84 and No. 52, National League of Musicians, have refused to affiliate with the American Federation of Musicians, and they are represented by delegates in the central labor bodies of Wheeling, W. Va., and Birmingham, Ala., contrary to Article XII, Section 1, of the constitution of the American Federation of Labor; and,

WHEREAS, The said musicians' unions and the central bodies of which they are represented, have refused all overtures to have said musicians' unions affiliate with the American Federation of Musicians; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Trades and Labor Assembly, of Wheeling, W. Va., and Birmingham, Ala., be required to at once comply with Article XII, section 1, constitution of the American Federation of Labor, and unseat said delegates until such time as the unions they represent are affiliated with the American Federation of Musicians.

Referred to Committee on Grievances.

Resolution No. 135.—By Delegate Bennett:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor re-affirm the boycott on the products of the Boston Belting Company, of Roxbury, Mass., and so notify the national, state, and local unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to that effect.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 136.—By Delegate Doyle:

RESOLVED, That leave be granted to the officers of the National Union of Steam Engineers, on application, to change the name of the charter granted by the American Federation of Labor from "National" to "International Union of Steam Engineers."

Referred to Committee on Organization.

Resolution No. 137.—By Delegate Murphy (of Boston):

WHEREAS, The Amalgamated Society of Engineers are making strenuous efforts to obtain the eight-hour workday in England; and,

WHEREAS, We congratulate our brothers across the water in their noble efforts to obtain favorable conditions, and recognizing the truth of the old saying that a blow struck in the right is supported by all, regardless of geographical lines; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor pledge its moral and financial assist-

ance to the Amalgamated Society of Engineers of England in their present struggle for a higher standard of living.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 138.—By Delegate Doyle:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor hereby sets, its seal of disapproval on any effort that may now or hereafter be attempted to be made by any affiliated international, national, or local union to contract any offensive or defensive alliance with any non-affiliated organization when there is an affiliated union of that craft in existence.

Referred to Committee on Local and Federated Bodies.

Resolution No. 139.—By Delegate Kidd:

WHEREAS, The Brushmakers' Union of Chicago, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, has adopted a label to distinguish the products of its members in contradiction to non-union made brushes; and,

WHEREAS, Union label brushes are already on the market; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this convention heartily endorse the label of Brushmakers' Union, No. 6890.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 140.—By Delegate Bonbright:

WHEREAS, The Union Label Leagues organized to promote and demand the use of and uphold the goods of organized labor; and,

WHEREAS, Many of them would be furnished with literature from various sources if their location and address were more generally published; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the names and addresses appear in the *Federationist*, and in the list of societies issued by the American Federation of Labor.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Resolution No. 141.—By Delegate Garland:

WHEREAS, A national movement for the purification of primary elections is under way, a conference to that end having been called for January 14 at New York City; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, hereby express its approval of the aim sought.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 142.—By Delegate McGuire:

WHEREAS, The American Federation of Labor is founded upon justice and equity, with well defined principles to help those who cannot help themselves, as well as those who can; and,

WHEREAS, An important branch of the public service is subject to a cruel, cunning, and systematic tyranny which prevents them from organizing like other employees; and,

WHEREAS, They are subject to a systematic classification, or the want of classification, which renders them subject to every petty subordinate who holds a position any higher than his co-worker; and,

WHEREAS, There is at the present time a bill, or one about to be presented, for the

classification of clerks in the first and second-class post-offices, which bill provides for first-second, third and fourth-class grades, or classification; and be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor demands the passage of same at as early a date as possible, so as to relieve from persecution a class creditable to themselves and honorable to the nation which they represent.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 143.—By Delegate McGuire:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor most firmly and unequivocally favors the independent use of the ballot by the trades unionists and workmen, united regardless of party, that we may elect men from our own ranks to make new laws and administer them along the lines laid down in the legislative demands of the American Federation of Labor, and at the same time secure an impartial judiciary that will not govern us by arbitrary injunctions of the courts, nor act as the pliant tools of corporate wealth.

RESOLVED, That our efforts are centered against all forms of industrial slavery and economic wrong. We must also direct our utmost energies to remove all forms of political servitude and party slavery, to the end that the working people may act as a unit at the polls at every election.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Delegate Keefe moved that the election of officers and fraternal delegates be made a special order for Friday at 2:30 o'clock.

Delegate Kenehan moved to amend by striking out Friday and inserting Saturday.

The amendment was adopted by a vote of 34 to 31.

The motion, as amended, was adopted.

The convention adjourned at 6:25 o'clock to meet Friday morning at 9 o'clock.

FIFTH DAY—Morning Session.

The convention was called to order at 9 o'clock, with President Gompers in the chair.

Roll call ordered.

Absent—Leslie, Yarnell, Schmalz, Miller, Call.

Delegate Dernell moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Adopted.

Delegate Fitzgerald stated that he would like to have mentioned in the minutes that a grievance from Auburn Central Labor Union had been introduced but could not be received on the grounds that Auburn Central Labor Union was not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Delegate Lennon moved that the matter be referred back to the State Branch for investigation.

Delegate McGuire stated that the matter referred to the carpenters' organization, and that he thought there was more personality in it than anything else.

The Secretary explained why the resolution was not mentioned in the minutes.

Delegate Fitzgerald said he wanted it understood that it had not been received because his name did not appear upon it.

The Secretary stated that he refused to accept it for the reason that it did not bear the name of a delegate, and because the Auburn

Central Labor Union was not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Delegate Lewis moved that the rules be suspended, and that the resolution be made a part of the minutes.

Delegate Lennon moved as a substitute that if Delegate Fitzgerald again introduced the resolution that it be accepted. Adopted.

The resolution from Auburn Central Labor Union was received, noted on the minutes, and referred to the Grievance Committee without reading.

The following announcement was read by President Gompers:

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 16, 1897.

To the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor—Greeting:

The Associated Labor Press of America was permanently organized in this city tonight. The purpose of this organization is "the interchange of news, fraternal intercourse, and assistance." The association is pledged to support the principles of the American labor movement as represented in the American Federation of Labor, and requires as a prerequisite for membership the possession of a card in a *bona fide* trades union.

Representatives of forty leading publications in the news and labor world are registered as charter members.

The first official act of the permanent organization was to convey greeting and pledge fealty to the American Federation of Labor.

Fraternally,

D. DOUGLAS WILSON, President.
STEPHE S. BONBRIGHT, Secretary.

Consideration of the report of the Committee on Convict Labor was resumed.

Delegate Fahey moved to amend the report by inserting the words "for each offense" in the penalties prescribed.

Delegate Garland said that he did not believe it was necessary to add the words "for each offense," as it also provided for the confiscation of the goods.

Delegate Miller said that he thought whoever had charge of the bill should be requested to make the amendment.

The amendment of Delegate Fahey was defeated.

The report of the committee was adopted.

Delegate Miller was called to the chair.

The report of the Committee on Executive Council was submitted, as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Gentlemen—Your Committee on Report of Executive Council beg leave to report that the matters referred to it pertaining to a dispute between the American Federation of Labor, the Nation Union of Steam Engineers, and Local Union 6807, of Boston, Mass., has been mutually adjusted to the full satisfaction of all parties concerned on the following basis:

1. That the charter of Local Union No. 7, of Boston, be at once revoked by the National Union of Steam Engineers.

2. That a joint committee consisting of four members shall be chosen, two from Local Union No. 7, and two from Local Union No. 6807, to arrange a joint meeting between both bodies for the purpose of reorganizing under one charter.

3. That in case of disagreement between said committee they shall call in a third party to act as adjudicator of the trouble; failing to do so within twenty days from the adjournment of this convention, it shall then devolve upon George E. McNeill, of Boston, to make such appointment.

4. That on reorganization of such local union, a new charter shall at once be issued by said National Union of Steam Engineers, when application for same is approved by third party.

5. That in case said charter is not issued when application is properly made and approved, it shall be the duty of said National Union of Steam Engineers to issue a charter to the local union now deprived, on the same terms and conditions as above provided, namely: on the approval of the adjudicator.

6. That all charges and counter charges, claims and counter claims, preferred against either local or any member thereof by the opposing local or by any of its members, or by any of the parties in interest, are hereby withdrawn.

Your committee would recommend your concurrence in the above agreement, and congratulate all parties on the happy solution of this very disagreeable dispute.

M. D. RATCHFORD, Chairman,

WILLIAM J. O'BRIEN,

ANDREW MURRAY,

ED. MOORE,

GEORGE A. WHITAKER, Secretary,

Committee.

Delegate Doyle moved that the report be received and the recommendation therein contained be concurred in. Adopted.

The Committee on Resolutions reported, as follows:

Reported favorably on Resolutions Nos. 69, 71, and 77. Adopted.

Resolution No. 86 was referred, to be taken up when the question of immigration was considered. Adopted.

Reported favorably on Resolution No. 89. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 92, the committee recommended that the words "skilled and" be inserted before the word "unskilled" in the preamble and in the resolution. Adopted.

Reported Resolution No. 93 favorably.

Delegate Whitaker asked permission to read from last year's proceedings on this subject. He said he could not understand why this matter had not been acted on before. He insisted that the western country must be organized, and by the American Federation of Labor. It is a fact that the west is a dumping ground for the product of the eastern scab. He said that they appealed to the American Federation of Labor to send organizers into that country.

The Secretary said he wished to call attention to the fact that there was only \$1,800 in the treasury one month before the end of the fiscal year, and, therefore, the provision of the resolution adopted a year ago could not be carried out.

Resolution No. 93 was referred to Committee on Organization.

On Resolution No. 99 the committee reported that the matter be referred to the union interested, with the hope that an amicable settlement be brought about.

Delegate Lynch said that the officers of the unions had decided to bring this matter before the American Federation of Labor for settlement, as the matter could not be settled by the two locals involved, and protested against referring it back to the locals. He thought that the report of the committee should not be accepted.

The committee withdrew their report and reported favorably, both parties having agreed to Resolution No. 99. Adopted.

The committee recommended that Resolution No. 106 be referred to the Executive Council. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 40 the committee offered the following substitute:

WHEREAS, Some friction has arisen in some of the tobacco factories of St. Louis

through a misunderstanding of the agreement entered into with the American Federation of Labor and the central bodies of St. Louis prior to the organization of the Tobacco Workers' National Union; and,

WHEREAS, We believe the work in said factory properly belongs under the jurisdiction of the National Tobacco Workers' Union; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the matter be referred to the incoming President and Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, with instructions to use their good offices toward effecting an adjustment satisfactory to the Tobacco Workers' National Union;

RESOLVED, That if no understanding is reached in this matter, the contract now existing between the American Federation of Labor and the factories involved be annulled.

Adopted.

On Resolution No. 113 the committee offered the following substitute:

To the President of the United States:

At the convention of the American Federation of Labor, held at Nashville, Tennessee, this the 16th day of December, 1897, consisting of delegates from more than 500,000 organized workmen from all parts of this Union, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, That the rumored contemplated appointment of Edward M. Paxton to be a member of the Inter-state Commerce Commission has caused the most serious apprehensions among members of the American Federation of Labor, and may well arouse a protest from every friend of organized labor throughout the country.

RESOLVED, That the appointment of this man to the position named would be most unfortunate and unfit:

1. In view of his record while Associate Justice and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, during a period of nearly twenty years, where a line of his opinions show a persistent leaning and bias in favor of corporate power and greed.

2. In view of that infamous charge to the grand jury in reference to the labor troubles at Homestead, Pa.

3. In view of his conduct while one of the receivers of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, where he countenanced, upheld, and defended a tyrannical rule of that company forbidding any of its employees to continue to be or become a member of any body of organized labor, and commanding the members of the several labor unions along the line of said road to hand in the charters of their unions to the general manager of the company.

4. And for other reasons which show his unfitness for the position which calls for the occupant to stand between the employer and the employee.

And that the undersigned officers of the American Federation of Labor are requested to transmit the same to you.

SAMUEL GOMPERS,

President American Federation of Labor.

Attest: FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

Adopted.

Reported Resolution No. 116 favorably.
Adopted.

Resolution No. 117 was acted upon at the last convention, and therefore unnecessary.

It was moved that the report of the committee be concurred in.

Delegate Warner moved to amend by reaffirming the position taken at the last convention.

Delegate Furuseth said this is a question whether the New York speculator or the Spanish capitalist should skin the Cuban workingmen. He said that he believed the Cuban trouble would lead to war with Spain, and the workingmen would be the sufferers, and result in disruption of the trades unions in this country.

Delegate Moore said he did not, as a hard-headed trades unionist, desire to play into the hands of the enemies. Let us free our slaves here. Already there is a tendency to put men into prison who declare against existing laws; and he wanted to know if Cuba secured her freedom will the working people of Cuba be free.

Delegate Miller said that if we have war with Spain the suffering and expense will be borne by the workingmen. He said that the workingmen would be food for powder. He said that he had introduced the resolution simply to get an expression of the delegates, and he was glad to see that the delegates had got their eyes open.

Delegate Crosby stated that there was a great difference between our oppression by courts created by ourselves and the persecution of the Cubans by those whom they had no voice in selecting to rule over them. He said the resolution simply meant that we should recognize the Cubans' right to their political liberty and their right to fight for it.

Delegate Doyle said that the grand army of labor is an army of peace, and that the scene at our doors was a disgrace to our civilization.

Delegate Kidd said he was very sorry to note that there is a very strong spirit of jingoism developing throughout the land, and that if the Cuban had the independence the American speculator wanted him to have the Cuban would not be independent, because it would simply be a change from the Spanish speculator to the American, and he doubted if the change would be a benefit. He stated further, that the great American labor movement is pledged to peace, but he would like to see the convention in some tangible manner declare their sympathy for the Cubans.

Delegate Kreft said that he was surprised that jingoism should find defenders on the

floor of the American Federation of Labor. It is simply a change of masters in Cuba, and he was not in favor of a change of masters until the workingmen became their own masters. He believed that jingoism, if not stopped, would result in involving the United States in war with the great European powers, and the wage-workers of this country would be the sufferers.

Delegate Askew said he was in favor of the freedom of Cuba, but he was more in favor of freedom for the American laborer.

Delegate Geraghty said that if delegates are in favor of freedom for Cuba, they should so decide. Why should the delegates deny an expression of sympathy for the Cuban people? The party in power had promised to give to Cuba the recognition it demanded, but had failed to do so.

Delegate Tobin introduced the following substitute:

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this convention that Cuba should have industrial

freedom from which will follow political freedom.

Delegate Crosby moved that the substitute be laid on the table.

On a call for information the Chair decided that if the motion to lay on the table prevailed it would carry the subject-matter with it.

The decision of the Chair was appealed from by Delegate Murphy (of Boston).

The ruling of the Chair was sustained.

Delegate Crosby asked permission to withdraw the motion to table.

Permission denied.

Roll call demanded and supported. Roll call taken.

Delegate Lennon moved that the convention accept the invitation of the citizens of Nashville to attend a musical reception at the Tabernacle. Adopted.

At 12:15 o'clock the convention adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

FIFTH DAY—Afternoon Session.

The convention was called to order at 2 o'clock, with president Gompers in the chair.

Roll call ordered.

Absent—Mahon, Noonan, McGill.

Delegate Klapetzky moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with, Adopted.

The Committee on Secretary's Report submitted the following:

To the President and Delegates of the Seventeenth Annual Convention:

Gentlemen—Your Committee on Secretary's Report begs leave to submit the following result of its deliberations:

We find the Secretary's report to be a clear, explicit, and comprehensive statement of the affairs of his office.

We recommend the per capita tax for local and Federated Labor Unions to the American Federation of Labor be increased to 5 cents per member per month, as recommended in the Secretary's report.

We also recommend that all moneys collected through assessment for a special purpose be set apart for same, and a separate account kept thereof and reported at the annual conventions.

Respectfully submitted,

I. B. MYERS, Secretary,
ROADY KENEHAN,
EDWARD HIRSH,
DANIEL MAHONEY,
HOMER D. CALL,

Committee.

Delegate Myers moved that the report be accepted, and that portion relative to increase in per capita tax be referred to the Committee on Laws. Adopted.

The Secretary announced the vote on the motion to table substitute to Resolution No. 117. Aye, 854; nay, 1394.

Delegate Lennon called for the previous question.

Sustained. Adopted.

Substitute lost.

The following delegates desired to be recorded as voting in favor of the substitute: Kreft, Moore, Priesterbach, and Tobin.

The amendment of Delegate Warner was adopted.

On Resolution No. 124 the committee recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Laws.

Delegate Bazeley thought the matter should be referred to a special committee.

Delegate Bennett said he was opposed to central bodies being invested with any more power than they now possess.

Delegate Doyle said he did not believe that the central bodies should have the right to interfere between national organizations.

Concurred in.

The committee reported favorably on Resolution No. 125. Adopted.

Reported favorably on Resolution No. 126. Adopted.

Reported favorably on Resolution No. 131.

Delegate Tobin wanted to know what bill the resolution had reference to.

The introducer being absent the information could not be given. The secretary of the committee could not give the information, and the Chair stated that the matter would be laid over until the delegate was present.

Reported favorably on Resolution No. 132. Adopted.

Committee reported on Resolution No. 133 that the matter had been covered by previous legislation.

Delegate McGuire moved to refer the matter back to the committee. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 135 the committee recommended that it be referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 137 the committee recommended that it be referred to the Committee on President's Report. Adopted.

Delegate Duncan reported that he had several meetings with the tile layers, and that all but two were in favor of forming a national organization, and they were agreeable on condition that they would be permitted to charge \$99 for everyone who wished to become a member of their union; and recommended that the tile layers form a national union.

Delegate Elderkin moved that Delegate Duncan's recommendation be concurred in. Adopted.

The Special Eight-Hour Committee reported as follows:

On Resolution No. 36, the committee offer the following as a substitute:

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to use its best efforts to secure an amendment to the constitution of the United States so that Congress may be empowered to legislate on the subject of the hours of labor for women and children.

Delegate Ross said the only way to reduce the hours of labor is by national legislation. He said we had gone as far as possible in the states, and therefore we should endeavor to get a national eight-hour law. His organization was always in favor of shorter hours, and they now recognize that it can only be done by national legislation.

Delegate Lloyd favored the resolution.

Delegate Bennett stated that the resolution should pass. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 48, the committee stated that the resolution was adopted at the Sixteenth Annual Convention, and was presented at this time in order that the position of the Federation of Labor might be reaffirmed. During the past year the legislatures of some of the states have been appealed to.

The state of California has established one day of rest in seven by legislative enactment. The religious and labor organizations of Massachusetts have been and are working together to secure the passage of a similar law. Your committee reports the following as a substitute:

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in the name of organized and unorganized labor, protests against the inhuman practice of compelling men to work seven days in succession. We protest and affirm that one day's rest in seven is an absolute necessity of human life—a natural law that cannot be broken with safety; and those who, by low wages or by fear of discharge, compel the violation of this natural law, are guilty before God and the people of a crime against the physical, mental, and moral welfare of the human race; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on all trades unions and unionists to agitate for and co-operate with any and all associations to secure legislative enactment providing for one day's rest in seven. We protest against long hours, overtime, and Sunday work, and demand that all who work shall have one full day of rest in every seven.

Concurred in.

On Resolution No. 94, the committee stated that the Sixteenth Annual Convention pledged the aid of the American Federation of Labor to the trades unions of Utah, and the Executive Council has contributed \$250 of the funds of the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of defending the constitutionality of the Utah eight-hour law. The stagnation and depression of the mining interest in Utah have been so great and continuous that it is impossible for the unions of that state to meet the expenses of the suit in which they have been engaged. The decision of the court has not yet been declared, but a favorable ruling is looked for. We recommend that the Executive Council give such further financial assistance to the trades unions of the state of Utah toward the liquidation of the indebtedness as the funds of the American Federation of Labor will warrant.

The part of the President's address which was referred to this committee is full of hope and encouragement. It is evident that the agitation of the past year for the eight-hour day has produced great and lasting results in multiplying organizations and increasing the membership of the local, national, and international unions.

Your committee, after listening to the full debate upon the necessary details of the forward movement of the incoming year, would respectfully recommend that the Federation take no step backward in the great battle for economic liberty, but press forward with greater earnestness and enthusiasm on the historic lines upon which the grandest victories of our century have been achieved.

That in fulfillment of the pledges and promises of the Sixteenth Annual Convention, the Executive Council be instructed to give all aid and encouragement in its power to such union or unions as are prepared, or shall be

prepared to demand the eight-hour day on May 1, 1898.

That the Executive Council forward appeals to all affiliated bodies for contributions to a fund from which the unions can receive pro rata assistance. That in the circular of appeal all the affiliated bodies shall be requested to hold public meetings in their assembly hall. That the labor press is hereby requested to give additional prominence to the eight-hour movement; that eight-hour literature be published and distributed, and that the whole power and strength of the American Federation of Labor be concentrated upon the establishment of the eight-hour day.

That the Presidents of the international and national unions, state federations, and local central labor bodies and federal labor unions be appealed to to commence at once an active co-operation with the Executive Council to make this movement a success.

In submitting these recommendations your committee are mindful of the fact of the long continued industrial depression consequent upon the criminal folly of the controlling classes, and the criminal apathy of unorganized labor. We realize the hardships and poverty of the wage class, but we believe that there is no safer or more practical plan to deal with the great question of the unemployed than in such a distribution of labor as shall work to the advantage of those at work and out of work. We realize the truth of the statement made by Ira Stewart, "that machinery is discharging laborers faster than new employments are provided; the development of machinery cannot be stopped, and that tramps must not be increased."

Innumerable panaceas have been presented from time immemorial for the abolition of poverty and the emancipation of the wage slave from economic bondage; but tracing down through history we find that in the advancement made toward the goal of our desires, no one measure has contributed so much toward the desired end as successive reduction of the hours of labor. This century commenced with the moan of the child in the mill and the mine, the sigh of the mother under the burden of poverty; and we also believe with Mrs. Browning "that the sigh of the child in the darkness sinks deeper than the curse of the strong man in his wrath. The moan, the sigh, and the curse have been heard, and from the dark despotism of Russia, the imperialism of Germany, the sunny lands of Italy and of France, the Kingdom of Great Britain, the British provinces, and in these United States, legislation has been enacted for the relief of the woman and child. The strong power of the organization of wage-workers has been felt so that in civilized communities something of leisure has been gained. It has been, and is, a slow and tedious pathway up the mountain of our hope; hard battles have been fought and must be fought; sacrifices, even unto life, have marked the way; we have been driven backward, but have rallied again and again, each time with increased numbers and greater earnestness; the feudal Baron of the old world has been dethroned and the new Barons of the mill, the mine, and the workshop will fall before our onward march. We cannot fail! Already the ground-work of the false political economy has been undermined; a new and better philosophy is taking its place in the minds of thinking men.

The folly of the competitive wage system is

becoming manifest; the capitalist class has learned a lesson. It is destroying competition by a union of forces in the establishment of trusts and monopolies. The poisonous tree of the wage system is bearing its full fruit! The climax is fast approaching! The institutions of freedom are in danger! The struggle between the rights of property and the rights of humanity will end as it has always ended—in securing to humanity a larger share of opportunity, and will continue until the full product of toil shall be "the fruit of the toiler"—when men shall be greater than money; when moral worth, not wealth, shall be the standard of manhood.

By combinations the capitalists have achieved power. By combinations of wage-workers their power will be overthrown. As the achievements of capitalists were not the result of a year—but of years—so their overthrow cannot be accomplished in a day, or by the proclamation of any programme of principles. Fundamental principles must be taught; the people must be educated, and the greatest instrument of education on the line of those principles is the reduction of the hours of the working day.

Let us, then, rally as one man from the mill and the mine, from the mountains and the valleys, from where the Atlantic breaks upon the shore and the Pilgrim Fathers first landed, to where the shores of the Pacific glisten in the rays of the setting sun, carrying the banner of the American Federation of Labor to the highest point of human attainment; sounding everywhere the rally-cry: "We are rallying our forces from the ship-yard, shop, and mill,

Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what we will."

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES BRENNOCK, Chairman,
P. F. DOYLE,
T. L. LEWIS,
W. B. PRESCOTT,
J. H. SULLIVAN,
GEORGE E. McNEILL, Secretary.

Delegate O'Donnell moved its adoption.

Delegate Whitaker stated that the compulsory eight-hour law of Utah was passed in 1896, and applied to miners, smelters, etc. It was passed against the opposition of the smelters and mine-owners of Utah. The Supreme Court of the state decided unanimously in favor of the wage-workers. The Attorney General refused to enforce the eight-hour law, and the organizations were compelled to do it themselves, which cost the unions over \$3,602.50. He stated that it was not only for Utah that he appealed, but for the other states of the Union as well.

Delegate Lennon offered as an addition to the report of the committee, that the Executive Council have the power to endorse an appeal for assistance to liquidate the debt incurred by Utah trades unions in defending the eight-hour law of Utah before the United States Supreme Court.

Delegate Whitaker wanted to know if the amendment was adopted would it interfere

with receiving aid from the American Federation of Labor.

The Chair decided that it would not.

The report, as amended, was adopted.

Delegate Krefl moved that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the convention. Adopted.

The Committee on President's Report submitted the following:

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 16, 1897.

We, your Committee on President's Report, beg leave to submit the following:

We note with gratification the increase in membership during the past year and believe that it is due in no small degree to the clearer understanding of trades unionism and its principles that has been imparted by the officers and the organizers of the American Federation of Labor.

1. Under the head of "Federal Labor Unions and Dues," the President calls attention to the difficulties met with in transferring the members of these organizations to the national unions of their craft on account, largely, of the increase of dues accompanying the transfer, and asks that we consider the advisability of increasing the dues to be paid by the members of the local and federal labor unions. The committee are of the opinion that this matter must be approached with caution, lest we make it difficult to organize these recruiting bodies for the trades unions, and would, therefore, recommend that the per capita of local and federal labor unions to the American Federation of Labor be increased from one to two cents per month as a sufficient advance in the premises.

2. In relation to the President's comments upon the undesirable membership that sometimes finds its way into local and federal labor unions, we are strongly of the opinion that the word "wage-workers," in section 2 of Article XIII of the constitution, should be interpreted in the strictest trades-union sense of the word, and should not be made to apply to superintendents, foremen, proprietors, or others occupying positions of authority, and, therefore, heartily endorse the position assumed by the President.

3. In the matter of special organizers, we feel that the President and Executive Council have carried into effect, as far as the finances of the organization would permit, the instructions of the Cincinnati convention, and take occasion to emphasize the advisability of making the organizers subject to appointment by and under the control of the President and Executive Council, to be placed in commission as the finances of the organization will permit.

4. We fully concur with the President's endorsement of high dues as applied to the trades unions, that better protection and relief in time of sickness and distress may be accorded their members. We believe, however, that the time is not yet opportune for the creation of a defense fund by the American Federation of Labor, and are strongly of the opinion that a departure of such importance should not be undertaken without having first referred the matter to a vote of affiliated bodies.

5. We concur in the views of the President in denouncing any sectional movement on the part of organized labor of this country as tending to destroy the solidarity of labor and materially weaken its influence for good in the

cause of the toilers of our land. We should ever keep before us the motto, "In union there is strength," and frown down any attempt to divide our forces.

6. We take great pleasure in commending the action of the President and the Executive Council in the late miners' strike, and believe that the success of the miners was due in no small degree to their co-operation and the prompt and substantial assistance rendered by trades unionists generally. As a notable feature of this industrial struggle our attention is called to the extraordinary use made by the writ of injunction. While we think that writs of injunction have a legitimate and proper function, we hold that when used to prevent free speech or public assemblage to discuss grievances, be they political or industrial, and to compel men to continue to labor for private individuals against their will, they amount to judicial usurpation and are a flagrant infringement of the rights of the citizen, are wholly un-American and destructive of popular government; and further, that any judge who will use his sacred position for such purposes should be promptly impeached and removed from office. It was such a criminal usurpation of power that in our opinion is responsible for what is commonly referred to as the Lattimer massacre. In view of these facts, we feel that we are justified in looking to Congress for specific declaration against the abuse of this ancient power of our judiciary.

7. We would recommend that the question of label agitation be referred to the Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

8. We would also recommend that this convention provide for the maintenance, at the present session of Congress, of a representative of this body for the purpose of watching and furthering such labor legislation as may come before Congress, or be asked for by the American Federation of Labor, as representing organized labor's interests.

9. As to the eight hour law amendment referred to, and the power asked for to enable the Executive Council to secure legal advice on such proposed amendments, we recommend that such a course be pursued, and the Executive Council give or withhold its approval as seems to them advisable with the opinion thus obtained.

10. We deeply deplore the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in what is commonly known as the "Arago case," which distinctly and clearly contravenes the spirit and intent of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. We recognize in it a decision replete with the gravest danger and direst consequences to all who toil. It practically makes involuntary servitude possible in these United States, for while the decision itself specifically applies to seamen, we are justified from the dissenting opinion of Justice Harlan in believing that its scope is of a more far-reaching character. This opinion among other things, contains the following, which should serve to arouse all who labor to an acute sense of the danger of their position:

"It is, therefore, entirely appropriate to inquire as to the necessary results of the sanction given by this court to the statute here in question. If Congress, under its power to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States, can authorize the arrest of a seaman who engaged to serve upon a private vessel, and compel him by force to return to the vessel and remain during the

term for which he is engaged, a similar rule may be prescribed as to employees upon railroads and steamboats engaged in commerce among the States. Even if it were conceded—a concession to be made only for argument's sake—that it could be made a criminal offense, punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, for such employees to quit their employment before the expiration of the term for which they agreed to serve, it would not follow that they could be compelled, against their will and in advance of trial and conviction, to continue in such service. But the decision today logically leads to the conclusion that such a power exists in Congress. Again, as the Legislatures of the States have all legislative power not prohibited to them, while Congress can only exercise certain enumerated powers for accomplishing specified objects, why may not the States, under the principles this day announced, compel all employees of railroads engaged in domestic commerce, and all domestic servants, and all employees in private establishments, within their respective limits, to remain with their employers during the terms for which they were severally engaged, under the penalty of being arrested by some sheriff or constable, and forcibly returned to the service of their employers? The mere statement of these matters is sufficient to indicate the scope of the decision this day rendered."

11. We recommend to all members of organized labor the combined prosecution of the agitation in favor of the extension of municipal ownership of all public utilities, and endorse the Non-partisan Commission Bill for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the condition of labor, and urge the Executive Council to keep a careful watch on its progress and that of any so-called anti-blacklist bill that may be hereafter introduced.

12. We heartily endorse the sentiments as expressed by the President, relating to pending amendments of the "Anti-Trust Law," and urge all affiliated bodies to make an emphatic demand of their representatives that trades unions be specifically exempted from the charge of being in restraint of trade.

13. We take occasion to urge the reiteration of our opposition to the principles of compulsory arbitration. Any board of arbitration with power to enforce its award upon individuals ceases to be a board of arbitration and assumes all the functions of an industrial court; as such, is a revival of the English quarter session wages, and a reintroduction of selfdom, and would be fundamentally opposed to the Thirteenth Amendment of the Constitution.

14. We agree with the President in recommending that the previous action of this body declaring for the creation of the office of Secretary of the Department of Labor, with a seat in the President's Cabinet, be again endorsed.

15. We commend the vigilance of the President in seeking to offset the influence of the railroad corporations who were seeking to secure a further lengthy extension of time in which to equip their roads with the safety appliances prescribed by law; and deplore the fact that the lives and limbs of our fellow toilers are for another period endangered by the flagrant neglect of railroad corporations in violation of law.

16. The question of the restriction of immigration was brought to the notice of your

committee, both by President's Report and the several resolutions submitted. We realize that the subject is one upon which organized labor is seriously divided; but, as the results of the votes taken by those organizations that complied with the instructions of the Cincinnati Convention, are reported to have favored restriction, we recommend that this convention pronounce itself in favor of a reasonable measure of restriction on the lines of the educational test as contained in the Lodge Bill that failed of enactment at the last session of Congress. In this connection, there was submitted to us a resolution by Delegates Larger and Crouchley, which is practically endorsed in our recommendation. Also, one by Delegate T. D. Fitzgerald, of the New York State Federation, calling for the absolute suspension of immigration for a period of five years. On this we report unfavorably. Another by Delegate Murphy, of Boston, opposing restriction. On this we also report unfavorably.

17. None of us can afford to ignore the importance to organized labor the world over of the present attack upon the Amalgamated Society of Engineers of Great Britain, and as an expression of our practical sympathy we recommend that the President be instructed to issue an urgent appeal to affiliated bodies for such subscription on behalf of the engineers, and that the American Federation of Labor head the list with a subscription of \$500.

18. While the American Federation of Labor stands pledged to the principles of the referendum, we feel that the terms of the officers of the American Federation is of such short duration that the application of this principle to their election is impracticable, inasmuch as it would entail endless delay and unnecessary expense.

19. We recommend that the advice and opinions of the President on boycotts and court decisions be referred to the various affiliated bodies for their careful consideration.

20. Resolution No. 25, introduced by Delegate Doyle, of the National Union of Steam Engineers, was duly considered, and in the opinion of your committee the adoption of such a resolution would almost prohibit the receipt of advertisements for the *American Federationist*. We therefore report unfavorably to its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,
MARTIN FOX, Chairman,
A. FURUSETH,
D. J. SULLIVAN,
WILLIAM SILVER,
T. F. TRACEY, Secretary.
Committee.

Recommendation No. 1 referred to the Committee on Laws.

Moved to concur in Recommendation No.

2. Delegate Furuseth stated that we wanted, by our resolution, to guard against the employee and employer from being members of the same union. It would be another question as to whether college professors could form federal unions.

Delegate O'Connell stated that he was in favor of the report of the committee. He said in a great many instances the federal labor un-

ions are being used by men for the purpose of selling goods, and for political and selfish purposes. Adopted.

Delegate Doyle was in favor of report of committee, in that the lines of doubt were cleared up, same being necessary for the guidance of new unions.

Recommendation No. 3 adopted.

Recommendations Nos. 4 and 5 adopted.

On Recommendation No. 6, Delegate Hofher moved that it be laid over until Resolution No. 101 is reported.

Delegate Ratchford moved the adoption of the report.

Delegate Hofher withdrew his motion on the statement from the Chair that the adoption of the recommendation would not interfere with action being taken on Resolution No. 101.

Adopted.

Recommendation No. 7 concurred in.

On Recommendation No. 8, Delegate Lewis moved to amend by striking out "a representative" and substituting "three representatives."

Amendment defeated, and the recommendation was concurred in.

Recommendations Nos. 9, 10, 11, and 12 were adopted.

Recommendation No. 13.—Delegate Lennon moved to amend that portion of Recommendation No. 13 so that it shall not be construed as applying to operate against the railroad brotherhoods' desire for arbitration.

Delegate Furuseth said he thought it would destroy the effects of the committee's recommendation. Any board of compulsory arbitration that has the power to enforce its decisions ceases to become a board of arbitration and becomes an industrial court.

Delegate Lennon said that he was bitterly opposed to compulsory arbitration, but this was a peculiar position. He said we should not oppose the railroad brotherhoods in their desire for a board of arbitration. He said they knew what they wanted better than we did.

Delegate Lloyd stated that he was opposed to the amendment of Delegate Lennon. He said it would be construed to apply to every employee of the railroads. The policy of the trades union is to oppose any man who endeavored to compromise with principle.

Delegate Morrison moved to add to Recommendation No. 13, "but nothing in this shall be construed to mean opposition to compulsory arbitration, provided such legislation does not involve the compulsory enforcement of an award."

Delegate Lennon accepted the amendment. Amendment lost.

Recommendations Nos. 14 and 15 adopted.

Recommendation No. 16 was made a special order for 9:30 o'clock Saturday.

Delegate Lennon move to extend the time until report was completed. Rejected.

Delegate McNeill moved to extend the time until 6 o'clock. Rejected.

Delegate Myers asked unanimous consent to have Committee on Organization report on Resolution No. 32.

Committee on Organization recommended that Resolution No. 32 be referred to Committee on Grievances.

Moved that the report of the committee be non-concurred in, and Resolution No. 32 be adopted.

Delegate Warner made an amendment to extend the time until action was taken on Resolution No. 32.

The motion to extend the time to 6 o'clock was defeated.

Delegate Myers stated that the resolution, if adopted, would not prejudice the difficulty between the clerks and the butchers.

Delegate Kenehan wanted to know if the clerks would expel a member for taking a label from a union-made hat and putting it in a non-union-made hat.

Delegate Myers stated that the clerks would surely do so.

Delegate Doyle said that he was not aware that there was such an organization as the retail clerks.

Delegate Garland stated that clerks did much good for the labor movement. He said it was nothing more than right that this matter be settled here.

Resolution No. 32 was adopted.

The convention adjourned at 5:45 to meet at 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SIXTH DAY—Morning Session.

The convention was called to order at 9 o'clock with President Gompers in the chair.

Roll call ordered.

Absent—O'Brien, McCabe, Schmalz, Sullivan, Spencer, Mahon, Hedberg, O'Sullivan, Myers, Murphy, Rogers, McNeill, Jones, Sullivan, Murphy, Bennett.

Delegate Moffit moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Delegate Black moved that the rule limiting the time to debate to five minutes be limited to two minutes. Defeated.

Delegate Askew moved that the roll call be taken.

Declared out of order.

The consideration of the Committee on President's Report was resumed.

Recommendations Nos. 17, 18, and 19 were adopted.

Resolution No. 25 was reported unfavorably.

Delegate Doyle moved that the report be non-concurred in.

Delegate Furuseth stated that we wanted to call attention to the fact that if the resolution is adopted, it is likely that the *Federationist* would be suspended.

Delegate Doyle stated that the organization which he represented had instructed its delegate to introduce Resolution No. 25. He was opposed to allowing a firm to advertise in the *Federationist* that was not union throughout.

President Gompers, in speaking of the motion said you should not pass a law for the American Federation of Labor that you would not adopt for every trade publication. If that was carried out it would put every labor paper out of existence.

Delegate White stated that if this stand is taken, it will result in doing much good in St. Louis.

The motion to non-concur was lost.

Delegate Lewis moved to lay the matter on the table. Defeated.

Delegates Doyle and Lewis desired to be recorded as voting against the endorsement of the committee's report.

The hour of special order having arrived, Recommendation No. 16, of the report of the Committee on President's Report, was taken up.

Delegate Garland moved that the report of the committee be concurred in.

Delegate Myers stated that the immigrants who have of late been coming here are sapping the life out of the American laborer. The American wage-worker is now standing on the sidewalk and the cheap foreign laborer is taking the work that rightfully belongs to the American laborer.

Delegate Glenn stated that he was strictly opposed to putting anything in the way of immigration. Are we going back on what we have affirmed? If we go on record as opposed to immigration, we are in opposition to the constitution, which we are bound to support.

Delegate Moore stated that he was obliged to vote in favor of the recommendation of the committee. He said we must vote for restriction.

Delegate Priesterbach, in regard to this question, said he did not believe that the trades unions were opposed to immigration, but that the capitalists were. He hoped that the American Federation of Labor would not go back on this question.

Delegate Hofher said the American Federation of Labor should be consistent. We have been talking about international unions and consolidation of the brotherhood of man, and now we turn around and want to debar the brother from the other side.

Delegate White said he was surprised to hear on this floor the remarks of several delegates whose unions have voted against restriction speaking in favor of it. What was needed in this country was the restriction of the machine and not of immigration.

Delegate Miller said he had no objection to honest competition. This country is great enough and large enough for all who come; and that he was opposed to the criminal class coming here, and believed that we allow the small, contemptible politicians to pull the wool over our eyes.

Delegate Kreft stated that he was a foreigner himself, and was but thirteen years old when he came to this country, and had read with a great deal of admiration the Constitution of the United States, and claimed that the best trade unionists were the foreigners. He said the people came to this country under misrepresentation.

Delegate Garland stated that it had been said that his convention can not go on record in favor of restriction. He said that the convention dare not go on record against restriction.

Delegate Bazeley in speaking of the question said that the class that he objected to was the ignorant immigrants who came over here under contract.

Delegate Yarnell said that the talk of restricting immigration is simply a blind thrown in the eyes of labor, and stated that he came from a country where they go into a strike to win. He said he was opposed to any further restriction of labor, and believed that it was not the immigration question which was affecting the interests of the laboring class, but it was the money question.

Delegate Ratchford said he was in favor of strict enforcement of the immigration laws. He said that when you call a mass meeting consisting of 3,000 or 4,000 miners, you will find that but 20 per cent understand the English language and you are compelled to secure some one to interpret what you say to the 80 per cent. He said the Government's report showed that there had been a falling off of 50 per cent during the past year, but he contended that it was because of the depression in industry, and wanted to know if the common laborer received \$3 a day and the skilled laborer in portion, how long it would last if the ports were open to everyone.

Delegate Priesterbach stated that the oratory could not change his position on this question, because he believed that it was not so much trade unionists that were opposed to immigration as it was the capitalists who are opposed to it.

Delegate Furuseth said that the committee, in considering the matter, put it as near as they could on lines with the instruction the delegates had received from their unions.

Delegate Lewis stated that if we discuss this question until Christmas it would not change a vote, and therefore called for the previous question.

Carried by a vote of 43 to 18.

A roll call was demanded, which was sustained.

The President ordered the Secretary to call the roll.

Delegate Fitzgerald said he was instructed to vote for five years restriction, but he felt safe in voting "Yes."

Delegate O'Sullivan voted "Nay," under instructions.

Delegate Elderkin moved that the report of the committee be adopted as a whole.

Adopted.

The Committee on Labels and Boycotts reported, as follows:

On Resolution No. 72: Referred to the Committee on Laws. Concurred in.

On Resolution No. 95: Referred to the incoming Executive Council. Concurred in.

Recommended Resolution No. 96 favorably. Concurred in.

On Resolution No. 97: Referred to the incoming Executive Council. Adopted.

Recommended Resolution No. 99 favorably. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 73: Referred to the incoming Executive Council. Adopted.

Recommended Resolution No. 70 favorably. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 75: Referred to the editor of the *Federationist* for publication.

Adopted

On Resolution No. 13: Referred to the incoming Executive Council for investigation. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 15: Referred to the incoming Executive Council. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 16: Referred to the incoming Executive Council. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 110: Referred to the incoming Executive Committee. Adopted.

Recommended Resolution No. 83 favorably. Adopted.

Recommended the following substitute for Resolution No. 45:

Your committee recommend that the Executive Council submit a circular letter to all organizations having a firm on the "We Don't Patronize List," requesting a statement of the standing and condition of all such firms:

1. The length of time such firm has been on the list.

2. What is being done to inform the working people of the firm's position in regard to organized labor.

3. Under what condition at present its workmen are employed, and the number of said employees.

And such other information as will give the executive Council the exact situation of affairs.

And if, upon investigation the Executive Council ascertain that no effort is being made to successfully carry on the work, by those directly interested, or sufficient reasons are given why the firm should not be taken from the "We Don't Patronize List," the Executive Council shall, after first making an effort to adjust the difficulties, take the firm's name from the "We Don't Patronize List."

And your committee further recommend that in the future, before granting a request for the placing of a firm on the "We Don't Patronize List," all organizations having members

working for said firm shall be corresponded with to show cause why the request should not be granted.

Delegate Elderkin said that it was wise to reduce the list of boycotts and win some of them. He was strongly in favor of the report. Adopted.

The committee recommends the following substitute for Resolution No. 27:

Your committee recommends that the President of the American Federation of Labor write the proprietors of the breweries requesting them to immediately sign agreements with the National Brewery Workmen's Union. In the event of their refusing to sign said agreements, your committee recommend that the above request be granted.

Moved to concur in committee's report.

Delegate Curran said that every delegate here should be recorded on this matter, and he was opposed to referring the matter to the Executive Council. He said he was sent here opposed to the boycott on the brewers of Rochester. He said he was not in favor of the Knights of Labor, but was opposed to the way in which the boycott was issued. The men who work in the breweries of Rochester have been members of the Knights of Labor since 1880, and they have succeeded in shortening the hours of labor and have increased their wages, and we contend that they were not scabs, as the circular issued would indicate. The central body of Rochester had on three occasions refused to endorse the boycott.

Delegate Priestersbach stated that the charges had been made that the Brewery Workers had not endeavored to organize the brewers of Rochester. The brewers all over the country are making a fight to organize. The condition in the Rochester breweries was such that they were requested to go there and organize them under the American Federation of Labor. The Knights of Labor Assemblies in many instances are an organization on paper, and held together for the purpose of making money by a few men.

Delegate Lynch stated that the brewers of this country have declared a boycott on all Knights of Labor breweries. Will we boycott the men who have labored for years to build up their organization and get good wages? He was opposed to boycotting people who did not belong to the American Federation of Labor.

Delegate Hirsh was called to the chair.

President Gompers stated that the Secretary of the Rochester brewery took a committee, of which he was a member, to his office and

showed them his books and the wages paid. The employers said they did not have any objection to their employees organizing; they could do as they pleased about it, and they asked him if he thought the boycott was fair or unfair. He answered by saying that the American Federation of Labor did not put it on and could not take it off. He was then asked if he would advise them to break their contract with the Knights of Labor. He said his reply was, "Gentlemen, I have never yet advised, and I never will advise, anyone to break his contract; but before you again enter into a contract, you must consult with the officers of the Brewery Workers' National Union." He was informed that the contract expired next January, but, on returning to the office, he discovered, by communication, that the contract expired a few weeks after he had called on the committee. Mr. Bradley stated in a letter that it was not his intention to deceive him. He does not say that it was, but he knew that he did deceive him. A discrepancy existed between the statements made by the company and that incorporated in the contract that the company had with the men.

Delegate Valentine moved that that portion of the report which refers to the Rochester breweries be referred to a special committee consisting of an executive officer of the American Federation of Labor, an executive officer of the Brewery Workmen, and an officer of some national union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and a representative of the Rochester central body, to investigate, and to report their finding to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

Delegate Bennett believed that we should take a bold stand and not allow anyone to crush us. We should give our support and assistance to the Brewery Workers. They are affiliated with this body, and are entitled to our support.

Delegate Tobin said that Delegate Curran had stated that a majority of the trade unionists do not endorse the position of the American Federation of Labor. He knew that the delegate was in error, as nearly all the trade unionists are opposed to the position taken by the Rochester Trades Assembly.

Delegate Tobin called for the previous question which was sustained.

Roll call was ordered and taken, which resulted as follows:

For—Sidener, Hank, Kline, McGuire, Lloyd, Leslie, Hughes, Larger, Crouchley, Duncan, O'Brien, McCabe, Garland, Ratchford, Askew, Fox, Valentine, Black, Furuseth, Lennon, Hedberg, Prescott, Hirsh, Sullivan, Morrison, Lloyd, Crosby, Fitzgerald, Myers, Walsh,

Casey, Geraghty, Ludwig, Curran, Leo, Silver, McNeill, Jones, Thompson, Schwartz—938.

Against—Murphy, Tobin, Priestersbach, Mahoney, Klapetzky, Murray, Gompers, Whitaker, Tracey, Dernel, Doyle, Moffitt, Moore, Kenehan, Keefe, O'Connell Glenn, Warner, Lewis, Lynch, Schmalz, Miller, Call, Sullivan, O'Dea, Kleinheinz, Chalfant, White, Koch,

Kidd, O'Sullivan, Murphy, Bazeley, Brennock, Noonan, Kreft, Hofner, Tighe, Bonbright, Fahey, Bennet—1,196.

Delegate O'Dea desired to be recorded as not voting.

At 12 o'clock the convention adjourned to meet at 2 P. M.

SIXTH DAY—Afternoon Session.

The convention was called to order at 2 o'clock, with President Gompers in the chair.

Roll call ordered.

Absent—Yarnell, Spencer, Dillman, Mahon, Rogers, McNeill, McGill, Welch, Sullivan, Murphy, Conroy.

Delegate Klapetzky moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with. Adopted.

The Chair announced that the hour of special order had arrived for the election of officers and fraternal delegates.

Delegate Kreft moved that the special order be deferred until the amendment to Resolution No. 27 shall have been disposed of. Adopted.

Delegate Murphy (Boston) said that the Boston central body had endorsed the action of the brewers of Rochester in this matter. They know what they want better than we do, and should be upheld.

Delegate Mahoney said that the National Brewery Workmen are a part of the American Federation of Labor, and they demanded the protection of this body. The Knights of Labor at their last convention openly declared war upon the brewers. It depends upon this convention whether the work of the brewers shall be successful in their fight against the powerful Brewers Association.

Delegate Kreft said that one of the first principles enunciated, is that each union shall have complete autonomy of trade. He requested Delegate Priestersbach to read a letter which he (Priestersbach) had received, in which it was stated: "That if the brewery workmen carried out their constitution the Knights of Labor should declare war on the brewery workmen." He was satisfied that any one who has paid any attention to the recent action of the national convention of the Knights of Labor must be satisfied of their standing, and he refused to recognize an organization that is on paper only.

Delegate Miller said that the first teaching he had on unionism was given him by the Knights of Labor. The American Federation of Labor had given the brewers the choice of remaining with the Knights of Labor or the American Federation of Labor. They chose the latter, and the American Federation of Labor had no right to even consider this matter. It is a question between the trades unions and the so-called Knights of Labor.

Delegate Tobin called for the previous question, which was sustained by a vote of 26 to 20.

Delegate Hughes desired to vote "Aye" on the question, with the recommendation that an officer of the coopers act on the committee.

During the counting of the vote Delegate O'Sullivan was delegated to present a testimonial to the fraternal delegates.

Delegate O'Sullivan said that the fraternal delegates had been guests of the convention for the past week, and the delegates had arrived at the conclusion that they were jolly good fellows, and true trades unionists, and that they had worked themselves into the good graces of every one with whom they had come in contact; and he said he took great pleasure in presenting Delegates Harford and Wilson with a little club, knowing that Mesdames Harford and Wilson had been of great assistance in advancing the cause of true trades unionism, he, therefore, on behalf of the delegates of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, presents to each of them, through their husbands, a diamond pendant. Trusting that their stay among the delegates had been both pleasant and profitable, he wished them success upon their return to England.

Delegate Harford said he could not find words to express himself; but he was very thankful for the testimonials, both to himself and wife, and would carry them across the water and treasure them to the end of his

days, and when the time came for him to give up life's struggle he would hand them down to his sons as an heirloom of which his sons would be very proud. He appreciated the testimonial, as it demonstrated that his services in the cause of trades unionism were appreciated.

Delegate Wilson stated that he had enjoyed himself better during the past week than he had ever before. He had shared the hospitality of the delegates to the limit in every respect. He had learned a great deal of the American movement, and it had taught him many valuable lessons which would prove beneficial to the trades unions of his country. He said he believed in an international federation, and that there is no limit to the benefits to be derived from such organization. There is no doubt that these annual visits will bring it about. He said he thanked the delegates heartily, on behalf of both his wife and himself.

Delegate Duncan stated that on behalf of the special committee appointed to organize the tile layers he would report that the tile layers had organized a national organization and elected permanent officers, and that he believed the organization would prosper and do much good.

Delegate Schwartz said that he desired to return thanks to Delegate Duncan for his efforts in organizing the tile layers of the country into a national organization.

Delegate McNeill offered the following resolution of thanks:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this convention be and are hereby given to Johannes Gelert for his invitation to visit and examine his statutory group, entitled "The Struggle for Work." This group is especially interesting to all wage-workers. It vividly portrays not only the struggle of the wage-workers of the world for the opportunity to secure work, but also the no less terrible struggle of human tenderness in the hearts of the worker; the strong man weakened by hunger, listening to the plea of his aged fellow-worker. This piece of cold marble is a rebuke to the independent, a protest against the wage system, a warning against corporate control, an appeal to the highest aspirations of humanity. Adopted.

The Secretary announced the result of the vote taken on Recommendation No. 16 of the Report of the Committee on President's Report:

For—Sidener, Tobin, Klapetzky, Hank, Mulholland, Kline, Murray, McGuire, Lloyd, Leslie, Yarnell, Gompers, Whitaker, Tracy, Dernen, Hughs, Larger, Crouchley, Duncan, O'Brien, Moffitt, Moore, Garland, Keefe, O'Connell, Glenn, Warner, Ratchford, Lewis, Askew, Fox, Valentine, Black, Lynch, Call, Kleinhertz, El-derkin, Furuseth, Ross, Lennon, Hedberg, Prescott, Hirsh, Sullivan, Morrison, Lloyd, Crosby, Fitzgerald, Myers, Bazeley, Curran, Tighe,

Leo, Silver, McNeill, Bonbright, Jones, Sullivan, Thompson, Schwartz, Conroy—1,858.

Against—Murphy, Priestersbach, Mahoney, Doyle, McCabe, Kenchan, Schmalz, Miller, Sullivan, Chalfant, White, Koch, Kidd, O'Sullivan, Murphy (Boston), Brennock, Walsh, Casey, Geraghty, Ludwig, Krefit, Hofher, Fahey, Bennet—352.

Special order having arrived, Delegate Fox was called to the chair and the nomination for President declared in order.

For President: Delegate Bennett nominated Samuel Gompers with a few appropriate remarks. Seconded by Delegate McNeill.

Delegate Tobin nominated Ernst Krefit. Seconded by Delegate O'Dea.

For First Vice-President: Delegate Hirsh nominated P. J. McGuire.

The Assistant Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous vote of the convention, which was done, and Delegate McGuire was declared elected.

For Second Vice-President: Delegate Schwartz nominated James Duncan, and the same course was pursued.

For Third Vice-President: Delegate Askew nominated James O'Connell, and the same course was pursued.

For Fourth Vice-President: Delegate Keefe nominated M. M. Garland, and the same course was pursued.

For Treasurer: Delegate McNeill nominated John B. Lennon, and the same course was pursued.

For Secretary: Delegate Silver nominated Frank Morrison, and the same course was pursued.

For Fraternal Delegates: Delegate O'Brien nominated Delegate James Duncan. Seconded by Delegates Myers, Lennon, and Garland.

Delegate McGuire nominated Henry Lloyd. Seconded by Delegates Murphy (Boston), McCabe, McNeill, and Hughs.

Delegate Geraghty nominated Delegate M. D. Ratchford. Seconded by Delegates Moore and Crosby.

Delegate Call nominated W. E. Klapetzky.

Delegate Klapetzky declined in favor of Henry Lloyd.

Delegate Priestersbach nominated D. Mahoney.

It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. Adopted.

The Secretary announced the following vote on the election for President.

For Gompers—Sidener, Murphy, Mahoney, Klapetzky, Hank, Mulholland, Kline, Murray,

McGuire, Lloyd, Whitaker (Cigarmakers' vote), Hughs, Doyle, Larger, Crouchley, Duncan, O'Brien, McCabe, Moffitt, Moore, Kenehan, Garland, Keefe, O'Connell, Glenn, Warner, Ratchford, Lewis, Askew, Fox, Valentine, Black, Schmalz, Miller, Call, Sullivan, Spencer, Elderkin, Furuseth, Ross, Lennon, Hedberg, Prescott, Hirsh, Sullivan, Morrison, Kidd, Lloyd, Crosby, O'Sullivan, Fitzgerald, Myers, Murphy, Bazeley, Brennock, Walsh, Casey, Geraghty, Curran, Tighe, Leo, Silver, McNeill, Bonbright, Jones, Schwartz, Bennet—1,858.

For Krefl—Tobin, Priestersbach, Leslie, Yarnell, Lynch, O'Dea, Kleinheinz, White, Koch, Ludwig, Noonan, Hofher, Fahey—407.

For member of the Legislative Committee: Delegate O'Sullivan nominated Andrew Furuseth.

The Assistant Secretary was instructed to cast the entire vote of the convention, which was done, and Delegate Furuseth was declared elected.

Place of meeting:

Delegate Lynch nominated Detroit.

Delegate Myers nominated Kansas City.

Seconded by Delegates Valentine and Hofher.

It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. Adopted.

The vote resulted: Kansas City, 1,305½; Detroit, 945½.

The Committee on Organization made the following report:

Favorably on Resolution No. 54. Adopted.

Resolution No. 67 already covered by legislation.

Reported favorably on Resolutions Nos. 68, 76, and 79. Adopted.

Reported favorably on Resolution No. 80.

Delegate McGuire said the reason he introduced the resolution was that a number of unions in Canada paid per capita tax to international unions in this country, and he thought that as we send delegates to England we should also send one to Canada.

Adopted.

Reported favorably on Resolution No. 81.

Delegate O'Sullivan moved to non-concur.

Delegate Lloyd said the Federation never attempted to co-operate with the building trades.

Delegate Doyle said he believed that the passage of the resolution at this time would be unwise, as the body referred to was now assembling in St. Louis.

Delegate McGuire thought that if the encouraging of such a course was pursued, it would disrupt the organization of the American Federation of Labor.

Delegate Brennock said that when all trades were represented in the Chicago Federation it was very beneficial.

Delegate McCabe said that he came from a conceited organization, but now knew the benefits of organized labor.

Delegate Silver also spoke against the resolution.

Recommendation of the committee concurred in.

Delegates Doyle, Silver, Brennock, and Miller desired to be recorded as voting against the committee's recommendation.

Delegate Krefl moved to extend the time. Adopted.

Delegate Walsh thanked the convention for selecting Kansas City as the next place of meeting.

Committee continued:

Reported favorably on Resolution No. 82. Adopted.

The Secretary announced the result of the vote for Fraternal Delegate, as follows:

For Duncan—Sidener, Tobin, Murray, McGuire, Gompers, Whitaker, Tracy, Dernel, O'Brien (granite cutters' vote), Garland, Keefe, O'Connell, Fox, Valentine, Black, Schmalz, Miller, Sullivan, O'Dea, Kleinheinz, Furuseth, Lennon, Hedberg, Prescott, Hirsh, Sullivan, Morrison, Kidd, Myers, Leo, Silver, McNeill, Bonbright, Thompson, Schwartz—1,352.

For Lloyd—Sidener, Klapetzky, Hank, Mulholland, Kline, McGuire (carpenters' vote), Cigarmakers' (134½ votes), Hughs, Doyle, Larger, Crouchley, McCabe, Moffitt, Moore, Kenehan, Glenn, Warner, Ratchford, Lewis, Askew, Valentine, Black, Lynch, Call, Sullivan, Spencer, Elderkin, Furuseth, Ross, Lennon, Chalfant, Prescott, Sullivan, Morrison, Kidd, Lloyd, Crosby, Fitzgerald, Murphy, Bazeley, Brennock, Walsh, Casey, Geraghty, Ludwig, Noonan, Krefl, Curran, Tighe, Leo, McNeill, Fahey, Bennet—1,376½.

For Ratchford—Murphy, Tobin, Klapetzky, Hank, Mulholland, Kline, Murray, Lloyd, Leslie, Yarnell, Cigarmakers' (134½ votes), Doyle, Larger, Crouchley, Duncan, O'Brien, McCabe, Moffitt, Moore, Kenehan, Garland, Keefe, O'Connell, Glenn, Warner, Lewis (miners' vote), Askew, Lynch, Schmalz, Miller, Call, O'Dea, Kleinheinz, Spencer, Elderkin, Ross, Hedberg, Chalfant, White, Koch, Hirsh, Lloyd, Crosby, Fitzgerald, Myers, Bazeley, Brennock, Walsh, Casey, Geraghty, Ludwig, Noonan, Krefl, Hofher, Tighe, Silver, Bonbright, Fahey, Jones, Bennet—1501½.

For Mahoney—Murphy, Priestersbach (brewery workers' vote), Hughs, White, Koch, Murphy, Curran, Hofher, Jones, Thompson, Schwartz—176.

Delegate Prescott moved that we proceed with the election of Fraternal Delegates.

Delegate McGuire moved to amend that we decide that the two delegates receiving the

highest number of votes be declared elected. Withdrawn.

Delegate Lennon moved to amend that we declare the vote informal and that we vote for one at a time. Withdrawn.

The Chair, upon the question of Delegate Hofher asking whether it required a majority or a plurality vote to elect, decided that the practice in the American Federation of Labor is that a majority of all votes cast was necessary to elect.

Delegate Hofher appealed from the ruling of the Chair.

President Gompers called Delegate McNeill to the chair, pending the disposition of the appeal.

Delegate Hofher said that the Chair erred, and quoted the practice of elections in the Cigarmakers' International Union.

President Gompers stated the analogy would not hold, for in the organization named, though the members voted for seven officers, they voted for one candidate only for each office, while in the election for Fraternal Delegates the delegates to the convention were voting for two candidates at the same time; that if Delegate Hofher's position was correct, then three delegates were elected when only two were required.

The Chair was sustained.

Delegate Moffitt moved to extend the time until the election of Fraternal Delegates should be decided. Adopted.

Delegate Geraghty called for the previous question. Not sustained.

Delegate Lennon moved that the convention proceed with the election of Fraternal Dele-

gates, each delegate voting for two candidates. Adopted.

Roll call taken, which resulted as follows:

For Duncan—Sidener, Tobin, Murray, McGuire, Gompers, Whitaker, Tracy, Dornell, Hughes, O'Brien (granite cutters' vote), Garland, Keefe, O'Connell, Glenn, Warner, Fox, Valentine, Black, Sullivan, O'Dea, Kleinheinz, Furuseth, Lennon (tailors' vote), White, Koch, Prescott, Hirsh, Sullivan, Morrison, Kidd, O'Sullivan, Myers, Walsh, Curran, Hofher, Leo, Silver—1,450.

For Lloyd—Sidener, Priestersbach, Mahoney, Klapetzky, Hank, Mulholland, McGuire (carpenters' vote), Cigarmakers' (134½ votes), Hughes, Doyle, Larger, Crouchley, McCabe, Moffitt, Moore, Kenehan, Glenn, Warner, Ratchford, Lewis, Askew, Fox, Valentine, Black, Lynch, Call, Spencer, Furuseth, Chalfant, Prescott, Sullivan, Morrison, Kidd, Lloyd, Crosby, Fitzgerald, Myers, Murphy, Bazeley, Brennock, Casey, Geraghty, Ludwig, Noonan, Kreft, Curran, Tighe, Leo, McNeill, Fahy, Bennet—1,394½.

For Ratchford—Tobin, Priestersbach, Mahoney, Klapetzky, Hank, Mulholland, Murray, Lloyd, Leslie, Yarnell, Cigarmakers' (134½ votes), Doyle, Larger, Crouchley, Duncan, O'Brien, McCabe, Moffitt, Moore, Kenehan, Garland, Keefe, O'Connell, Lewis (miners' vote), Askew, Lynch, Call, Sullivan, O'Dea, Kleinheinz, Spencer, Chalfant, White, Koch, Lloyd, Crosby, O'Sullivan, Fitzgerald, Bazeley, Brennock, Walsh, Casey, Geraghty, Ludwig, Noonan, Kreft, Hofher, Tighe, Silver, Fahy, Bennet—1,348½.

Delegate Ratchford moved to make the election unanimous. Objection raised.

Delegate Murphy (Boston) moved that a vote of thanks be tendered Delegate Ratchford for the many manner in which he entered the contest.

Adopted by a rising vote.

The convention adjourned at 6:30 to meet at 9 o'clock Monday morning.

SEVENTH DAY—Morning Session.

The convention was called to order at 9 o'clock, with President Gompers in the chair.

Roll call ordered.

Absent—Sidener, Murphy, Tobin, Priestersbach, Kline, Lloyd, Yarnell, Larger, Kenehan, Garland, Ratchford, Lewis, Miller, O'Dea, Spencer, Dillman, Mahon, Elderkin, Ross, Lennon, Hedberg, Prescott, Sullivan, Lloyd, Noonan, Rogers, McNeill, Bonbright, McGill, Jones, Welsh, Sullivan, Murphy, Thompson, Schwartz, Conroy.

Delegate Doyle moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with. Adopted.

Delegate Doyle asked that the following telegram be read:

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 19, 1897.

P. F. Doyle, Delegate (Engineers), Tulane Hotel, Nashville:

Announce to American Federation of Labor convention that fifty delegates representing the building trades here, have formed a National Building Trades Council. It is a success.

ED. CARROLL.

The Committee on President's Report submitted the following:

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council devote special attention to the interests of the affiliated unions of Canada; and,

RESOLVED, further, That the Executive Council and Legislative Committee of the American Federation of Labor co-operate with the Dominion Trades Congress, endeavoring to secure the passage of favorable legislation in the Canadian Parliament.

Delegate Doyle moved that the report of the committee be accepted and the recommendation concurred in. Adopted.

The Committee on Resolutions submitted the following report:

Recommended Resolution No. 131 favorably. Concurred in.

Recommended Resolution No. 141 favorably. Delegate Doyle moved that the report of the committee be non-concurred in.

Delegate Doyle stated that the several states only had the right to enact election laws, and not a conference in New York. He claimed that the politicians to-day were not in touch with the working people.

Delegate Dernel said he hoped the convention would not go on record as being in favor of ballot-box stuffing and miscounting of votes.

Delegate Curran said he believed the convention would go on record as being in favor of purification in politics.

Delegate Myers said he could not see why we should take either side on this question. He had never seen an unfair primary. If it was not fair for one side it was for the other.

Delegate Bazeley favored the resolution, because in Cincinnati they did not have primaries, but the candidates were selected by politicians, the people having nothing to say as to who should be selected.

Delegate Brennock said the trades unions should take a hand in politics and thereby purify the ballot. If we do not adopt this resolution we should at least give it the support of our sentiment.

Delegate Fahey said it was impossible to purify politics unless trades unions took a hand in them.

Delegate Doyle said he did not want to be understood as opposed to purification in politics, but claimed that workingmen did not get a fair show.

Motion to reject the report of the committee defeated by a vote of 35 to 1. A motion was made that the report of the committee be concurred in. Adopted.

Reported Resolution No. 142 favorably. Adopted.

In answer to the letter of greeting from the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the committee reported as follows:

RESOLVED, That we welcome the hearty greetings of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and appreciate their expressed sympathy with our efforts in behalf of an eight-hour day and a living wage. We further commend the efforts of the above-named organization to elevate the condition of the workers by waging war against intemperance. And while we do not look upon these reforms as absolutely essential to the final emancipation of labor, we regard them as material aid toward the realization of the purpose of our movement.

Delegate Fitzgerald asked if the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Chicago did not operate a scab printing office.

Delegate Doyle stated that to the best of his belief the printing office was non-union.

Delegate Fitzgerald said that a resolution adopted by the American Federation of Labor requesting the Woman's Christian Temperance Union to use the label had been laid on the table by that organization, and moved to lay the committee's report on the table.

Motion to table was defeated.

Delegate O'Sullivan moved that in addition to the report that the Secretary be instructed to correspond with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of Chicago, and request that they use the label in their establishment.

Delegate Brennock said it was a scab institution, and the convention could not endorse such a concern.

Delegate Crosby offered the following amendment to the report of the committee:

"And we realize also that the employment of the members of our organizations by temperance and other organizations would be a great inducement for them to consider favorably the teachings of such reform organizations."

Adopted.

Delegate Myers said he was in favor of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and believed in anything that led mankind to a higher and better life.

Delegate Morrison said that communications had been read before the convention, and no questions were asked as to whether they were union establishments or not.

The motion as amended was adopted.

Delegate Krefl asked what had become of Resolution No. 143, and moved that it be withdrawn from the committee and placed before the convention for immediate consideration.

Delegate Myers said he was opposed to the convention passing any such motion. He said the committee was the best that had been appointed by the Chair, and no doubt would make a report in due time.

The motion of Delegate Krefl was defeated.

The Committee on Organization submitted the following report:

Recommended Resolution No. 88 favorably.

Delegate Klapetzky moved to amend by inserting the following:

RESOLVED, That the Executive Board form a National Union of Boiler Firemen as soon as their time will permit.

Report of the committee, as amended, was adopted.

Recommended Resolution No. 85 favorably. Adopted.

Recommended Resolution No. 87 favorably.

Delegate Doyle moved to amend that Resolution No. 87 shall not apply to engineers and firemen. Defeated.

The recommendation of the committee was adopted, with the understanding that jurisdiction did not include engineers or firemen.

Recommended Resolution No. 104 favorably. Adopted.

To the Officers and Members of the American Federation of Labor, Nashville, Tenn.:

Greeting—This is to certify that James H. Payne, No. 856 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Ill., has been duly elected to represent the United Order of Boxmakers' and Sawyers' Union, of Chicago, in their case now pending before your honorable body. Any favors shown him will be duly appreciated by the above-named union.

Fraternally yours,
THOMAS N. RIX, Secretary,
No. 2718 Crowell St., Chicago, Ill.

To the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled:

Fellow Workmen—The Boxmakers' and Sawyers' Union, representing 800 organized boxmakers in the city of Chicago, again appeal to you for a charter of affiliation and a rehearing of our claims for the same, in opposition to the assertions of the Amalgamated Woodworkers' International Union that we should affiliate with them.

The Boxmakers' and Sawyers' Union of Chicago has been organized since 1873, and has always been able to maintain a scale of wages. During the eight-hour agitation in 1886, we succeeded in reducing our hours of labor to fifty-five per week, and established a regular pay-day every Saturday at 12 o'clock, noon, and have since maintained the same, notwithstanding several attempts on the part of our employers to return to sixty hours per week.

We have also adopted a union label, which is recognized in Chicago and surrounding towns by the organized workmen, and is in use in every box factory except two.

During the spring of 1897 we abolished piecework in the box factories of Chicago and established a minimum scale of wages in every box factory, with the exception of the Nelson Morris Company and the Chicago Packing Box Company, and we are now engaged in a struggle with the former concern.

The foregoing statement may not appear to you to have any bearing on the question at issue as to whether or not we owe allegiance to the Amalgamated Wood Workers' International

Union, and we admit that it does not, but our ability to establish and maintain a good standard of wages for a quarter of a century, and the fact that the Boxmakers' and Sawyers' Union of Chicago controls 800 out of 1,000 boxmakers within Cook county, demonstrates our ability to organize the boxmakers and sawyers of the country under the banner of the American Federation or Labor.

We maintain that boxmaking is a separate and distinct trade from that carried on in sash, door, blind and furniture factories. We do not work for the same employers, and our products are not sold to the same class of consumers. The product of the sash, door, and blind, and furniture factory is disposed of to building contractors and used in the construction of buildings, and of the furniture factory to furniture dealers, who sell to the general public. The product of the box factory is sold to merchants and manufacturers and used for shipping purposes, and in that respect we are similarly situated to the Coopers' Union, whose products are used for shipping purposes.

The only piece of machinery used in a box factory is a cross cut saw and a rip saw, and they are differently constructed from saws used in sash and door factories.

If the claim of the Woodworkers' International Union that the boxmakers should be affiliated with them, and are not entitled to a charter from your honorable body, has any foundation in fact, we ask why it is that the sawmill workers and the kindling wood workers are not affiliated with the Amalgamated Woodworkers' International Union. We claim that we are in the same position as the Trunkmakers' Union—a separate and distinct trade.

If you decide that the Boxmakers should belong to the Amalgamated Woodworkers' International Union only, how is it that the International Union of Tobacco Workers has boxmakers enrolled in its membership?

Charters have been issued to various organizations whose members work for the same employers at the same time and in the same building. We do not work for any employer who employs members of the Amalgamated Woodworkers' International Union.

We ask that this matter be given careful investigation by your honorable body, believing that you will find our claims to a charter well founded, and that at the next convention of the American Federation of Labor the boxmakers of the United States may be represented by delegates.

Fraternally yours,
BOXMAKERS' AND SAWYERS'
UNION OF CHICAGO.

We, your committee, after listening to lengthy arguments by the representatives of the Woodworkers, Boxmakers, and the Chicago central body, and after carefully considering all the arguments advanced by both sides, recommend as follows:

That the incoming Executive Council of this Federation shall designate one of their members to go to Chicago and there confer with the executive officers of the Woodworkers' and Boxmakers' Unions and try to bring about harmony and amalgamation of the two organizations. Concurred in.

Recommended Resolution No. 130 favorably. Adopted.

Recommended Resolution No. 136 favorably. Adopted.

This, Mr. President and fellow-delegates, completes the labors of your Committee on Organization.

W. E. Klapetzky, Chairman.

ARTHUR LESLIE,

DAN'L J. KEEFE,

E. J. LYNCH,

JACOB J. SCHMALZ,

Committee.

It was moved that the Committee on Organization be discharged with the thanks of the convention. Adopted.

The Committee on Labels and Boycotts reported as follows:

On Resolution No. 33, the committee reports that this matter is covered by the action taken by the convention on Resolutions Nos. 27 and 45, with the exception of the point of establishing a joint label, and we recommend that this part be referred to the officers of the two organizations for action thereon.

Adopted.

Recommend Resolution No. 102 favorably. Adopted.

Recommend that Resolution No. 105 be referred to the incoming Executive Council.

Delegate Hughs moved to non-concur.

Delegate Hughs said that this is a matter which, if referred to the Executive Council, would be a rebuke to the coopers of Cincinnati. The coopers of Cincinnati wished recognition from this convention.

The motion to non-concur was defeated.

Delegate Priestersbach moved to concur in the report of the committee.

Delegate Hughs moved as an amendment that it be referred to the two national unions interested, in accordance with Resolution No. 79.

Delegate Priestersbach moved as a substitute that it be referred to the executive officers of the Brewery Workers, Coopers, and American Federation of Labor.

Delegate Priestersbach believed that his substitute should prevail, and the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor could act as arbitrator.

Delegate Hughs opposed the substitute.

Delegate Mahoney said he thought that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor should act as arbitrator. He thought the trouble had been by this time practically settled.

Delegate Priestersbach's substitute was defeated.

Delegate Hughs' amendment was adopted.

Recommended that Resolution No. 103 be re-

ferred to the incoming Executive Council. Adopted.

Recommended Resolution No. 139 favorably. Adopted.

Recommended that Resolution No. 119 be referred to the incoming Executive Council for investigation. Adopted.

Recommended that Resolution No. 135 be referred to the incoming Executive Council for investigation. Adopted.

Recommended that Resolution No. 140 be referred to the editor of the *Federationist* to use his own judgment. Adopted.

Recommended Resolution No. 12 favorably. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 29, the committee thought it inexpedient at this time.

Concurred in.

Delegate Doyle was called to the chair.

The Label and Boycott Committee reported the following communication:

Kansas City, Mo., December 14, 1897.

To the American Federation of Labor, in session assembled:

Brothers:—At the last meeting of the Armour Joint Boycott Committee we were instructed to address you. The enclosed cuttings from the papers are in the main true. The one marked A* is the action of the Conference Committee, and we would commend it to your careful consideration. The one marked B* is nearly a truthful report of its action; that is, the action of the Industrial Council. The joint boycott acted simply as a conference committee, and its propositions are self-explanatory. The Joint Boycott Committee would most earnestly request the American Federation of Labor to take action on the issues involved, so that certain friction may cease here in Kansas City.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

PAUL THIELEN, Chairman,

CHARLES W. MARSH, Secretary.

Referred to Committee on Labels and Boycotts.

Your committee report on the above communication that they are not competent to judge of the matter with the information at hand, and therefore refer it to the incoming Executive Council for investigation.

Delegate Call moved that Delegate Walsh, of the Industrial Council and the President of the Meat Cutters' Association be appointed as a committee to investigate and report to the Executive Council.

Delegate Call accepted the addition of the President of the American Federation of Labor to the committee.

Delegate Walsh said he thought the President of the American Federation of Labor

*Not published, as they did not bear the seal of their union, but are on file.

should go to Kansas City and investigate the matter thoroughly. Adopted.

FINAL REPORT.

Your Committee on Labels and Boycotts report favorably on that part of the President's report relating to union labels, and are of the opinion that the officers have done all that they could do to encourage the use of the label and the sale of union-made goods, and most heartily endorse the work of the President in this direction as above reported.

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES O'CONNELL, Chairman,
JOHN S. WHITE,
FRED BAZELEY,
A. PRIESTERBACH,
SAMUEL ROSS, Secretary,
Committee.

The Special Committee on Convict Labor reported as follows:

On Resolution No. 115 the committee offer the following substitute:

Your Committee on Convict Labor join in the protest of the Allied Printing Trades of New York State against the establishment of printing plants in the penal institutions of that state with the avowed purpose of retaining to convicts all state, county, and municipal printing; and instruct the officers of the American Federation of Labor to send such protest under their signatures and seal to Governor Black, Lieutenant-Governor Woodruff, and Speaker O'Grady.

DAVID BLACK,
M. LLOYD,
ERNST KREFT,
JAMES O'DEA,
Committee.

Adopted.

Committee on Local and Federated Bodies submitted the following report:

Recommended Resolution No. 138 favorably. Adopted.

Favorably upon Resolutions Nos. 100 and 138 and recommend that all organizations be notified of the same.

GEORGE J. BENNETT,
T. J. MURPHY,
GEORGE H. WARNER,
W. T. MAHON,
JAMES McCABE,
Committee.

Adopted.

Committee on Resolutions report favorably on Resolution No. 101.

Moved that the recommendation be concurred in.

President Gompers said that the resolution should be amended.

Delegate Fahey said he thought that no one cared anything about the matter. The fight had been won and settled, and that was the end of it.

Delegate Hofher moved to amend the resolution so that it shall read, "reported in the interest of the miners."

Delegate Murphy (Boston) said he hoped that the amendment would be adopted, so that the convention could be given a full statement of the facts.

Amendment adopted.

Delegate McGuire moved that the rules be suspended, and that President Gompers be given an opportunity to make a statement, as called for by Resolution No. 101.

Adopted.

President Gompers gave a detailed statement in line with what has already been published in the *American Federationist*, which was accompanied by statements by First Vice-President McGuire, why they did not attend the St. Louis Convention.

President Gompers said that his name was placed to the call without his knowledge or consent.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the convention adjourned, to meet at 2 P. M.

SEVENTH DAY—Afternoon Session.

The convention was called to order at 2 o'clock by President Gompers.

Delegate Keefe moved to dispense with the roll call. Adopted.

Delegate Moore desired to go on record as objecting to dispensing with the roll call.

Delegate Klapetzky moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Adopted.

Delegate O'Connell stated that his name had been attached to the call for the Chicago Convention without his consent.

The Committee on Resolutions submitted the following:

RESOLVED, That the reasons given by President Gompers for his non-attendance at the St. Louis conference are entirely satisfac-

tory to this convention, and receive our hearty endorsement.

Delegate Warner moved that the resolutions be adopted.

The motion to sustain the action of the chair in not attending the St. Louis convention was sustained unanimously.

The committee recommended Resolution No. 143 favorably.

It was moved that the resolution be concurred in. Adopted.

Delegate Kreft offered the following amendment:

To amend by striking out the word "party" in the third line and inserting in its place "old party ties," and adding:

RESOLVED, That this convention place itself on record as believing that only the entire abolition of the present system of wage slavery will at once and forever eradicate from human society industrial strife and distress, and that we, therefore, advise the membership of the American Federation of Labor that they use their suffrages only for the election of such candidates for public office who will stand upon a platform declaring for the entire abolition of the wage system and for the collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution.

Delegate O'Connell moved to lay the amendment on the table. Defeated.

The amendment of Delegate Kreft was defeated.

Delegate Black said he would like to understand the resolution before he should commit himself to it, and, therefore, moved as an amendment to strike out "from our own ranks."

Delegate Murphy wanted to know from Delegate McGuire whether he wanted to form a labor party.

Delegate McGuire said that instead of being jealous we should be proud of the success of our members. We should study history; the human race is not so mobile as some may believe. You will find before many years the labor party will become impregnable and indissoluble, because of conflict, and not the result of *isms*, and stated that he believed he saw the drift of the times, and that any man who will move one step forward would be welcomed by him, and some day the ballot-box will not be enough for them.

Delegate O'Sullivan said there is nothing in the resolution that would commit the movement to the formation of a political party.

Delegate Yarnell said he did not think there was ever a resolution which interested him so much as the present one. He believed inde-

pendent political action was necessary. No nation on earth could conquer the indomitable spirit of our people. We are alarmed at the injunctions leveled at the liberty of our citizens, and said it was the duty of the American Federation of Labor to take independent political action.

Delegate Furuseth said that there was not much real necessity to discuss the subject, because it simply meant that we should be sufficiently divorced from party affiliations to be able to vote for a trade unionist, no matter what party he belonged to. There is cause for the resolution being introduced, because it will help to awaken us.

Delegate Brennock said that he thought that if we elected people to office who would vote for the interest of the people, that the wage-workers would be able to take care of themselves. He said that the trouble with the American laborer was that he did not think, but was led by the nose by the politicians.

Delegate Black withdrew the amendment.

The report of the committee was concurred in.

Resolution No. 133 reported covered by previous legislation, and offered the following substitute:

RESOLVED, That we declare ourselves most positively opposed to the Gage Financial Bill, recently introduced in Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury. It is a measure which, if adopted as a law, will only all the more firmly rivet the gold standard on the people of this country, and perpetuate its disastrous effects in every form.

RESOLVED, That we pronounce the Gage Bill an undisguised effort to retire our green-back currency, and all government paper money, with a view to the substitution of national bank notes in their stead, and thus fasten the national bank system for years upon the American people.

Delegate McGuire said he was opposed to the extension of the power of the national banks. It is dangerous.

The committee's substitute was adopted.

Your committee in endorsing the labels of the various unions have, through an oversight, omitted the label of the Amalgamated Elastic Goring Weavers' Union. We would recommend that, in addition to all other labels, we endorse the label of the Amalgamated Elastic Goring Weavers' Union.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN B. LENNON, Chairman,
JOSEPH F. VALENTINE,
CHARLES MYERS,
JOHN F. O'SULLIVAN,
JOHN C. DERNELL, Secretary.

The Committee on Laws submitted the following report:

The Law Committee organized with P. J. McGuire, Chairman, and James Duncan, Secretary, and respectfully report as follows :

On Resolution No. 2, the committee offers as a substitute that "one-third" shall take the place of "one-fourth" in Article XI, Section 1. Adopted.

Delegate Warner was called to the chair.

On Resolution No. 49 the committee offers the following substitute, to be known as Section 5, Article XII: "No central labor union under penalty of suspension shall be permitted to suspend or expel any affiliated union except upon written charges and after fair trial, subject to appeal to the President of the American Federation of Labor; and meanwhile the union affected shall remain in good standing in said central body."

The substitute and original resolution was defeated.

Resolutions Nos. 32, 54 and 87 have been transferred to the Committee on Organization, they having no bearing on laws.

Resolution No. 67 has been referred to the Committee on resolutions, it having no bearing on laws.

On Resolution No. 29, your committee offers the following substitute: To strike out the words, "furthermore to," in the second line of Article II, Section 3, and to insert after the word "other," in the same line, the following words: "To aid and encourage the sale of union label goods." The remainder of the proposition and accompanying amendment to Article XI, Section 1, has been referred to the Committee on Labels and Boycotts, as the subject-matter has no reference to laws.

The substitute was adopted.

The committee reported unfavorably on Resolution No. 26. Concurred in.

Resolutions Nos. 8 and 74 being of a similar nature, the committee offers as a substitute to add after the word "to," in the first line of Article XII, Section 1, the words "or retain in." Adopted.

Delegate Klapetzky desired to be recorded as voting "nay."

Committee reported unfavorably on Resolution No. 128, concurred in.

Committee reported that as Resolution No. 129 was dependent upon the adoption of Proposition No. 128 (just disposed of) the committee reports unfavorably. Concurred in.

The committee reported unfavorably on Resolution No. 84. Concurred in.

The committee offers the following substi-

tute, to be known as Section 7, Article XIII, for Resolution No. 114:

"Fraternal Delegates attending the convention of the American Federation of Labor shall be entitled to all the rights of delegates from central bodies."

Amendment concurred in.

On Resolution No. 122 committee reported unfavorably. Concurred in.

Delegate Hirsh was called to the chair.

In reference to the recommendation in the Secretary's Report, which reads:

Prompt financial assistance would be of great assistance to sustain and strengthen isolated local unions. The per capita tax received by the American Federation of Labor is inadequate to meet very many of the urgent demands received. For that reason, it would appear that an increase of per capita tax from affiliated organizations should be carefully considered. In many instances local unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor evince a reluctance to join the national of their craft, giving as a reason the increased cost in per capita tax. I therefore recommend that the per capita tax for local and federal labor unions to the American Federation of Labor be increased from one cent to five cents per member per month.

The committee reports favorably on the recommendation, and that the words, "one cent," in the third line of Article XI, Section 1, be stricken out, and the words, "five cents," be inserted.

Delegate Tracy moved to amend by striking out "five" and inserting "two."

Amendment adopted.

Committee's report adopted as amended.

Committee reported unfavorably on Resolution No. 120. Concurred in.

The committee offered the following substitute for Resolution No. 98: Article VI, Section 6. The President shall appoint organizers as his judgment may direct, and shall grant them commissions, which shall not extend beyond the term of one year, and such organizers shall have the endorsement of the unions to which they belong.

On motion, the substitute was laid on the table.

The committee offers the following as a substitute for resolutions Nos. 72 and 127:

To amend Article IX, Section 4, by adding: "When the Executive Council receives an application from any affiliated body to place the products of any establishment upon the unfair list, notice shall be sent to all unions whose members are employed therein, and reply thereto must be made within thirty days for consideration of the Executive Council."

On motion, it was tabled.

Committee reported unfavorably on Resolution No. 121. Concurred in.

Delegate Kleinheinz moved that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at 7 o'clock P. M.

Motion lost by a vote of 31 to 9.

By Delegate Dernel: Resolution No. 144—Article V, Section 1. Insert between the word "convention" and the word "and" on line 2, the following: "On the last day of the session."

Committee reported favorably.

Delegate Doyle moved that "last" be stricken out and "third" inserted.

Amendment lost.

Motion adopted.

Respectfully submitted,
P. J. McGUIRE, Chairman,
JAMES DUNCAN, Secretary,
W. B. PRESCOTT,
M. M. GARLAND,
JOHN F. TOBIN,
Committee on Laws.

Delegate Dernel moved that the report of the Committee on Laws be adopted as a whole, and the committee discharged with the thanks of the convention. Adopted.

Delegate Dernel requested permission to introduce an amendment to the Constitution for the purpose of expediting business at future conventions.

The chair decided that an amendment to the Constitution was not in order at this time, as the Committee on Laws had completed its report.

Delegate Dernel appealed from the decision of the chair.

The chair was sustained by a vote of 17 to 26.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the convention stood adjourned until o'clock Tuesday morning.

EIGHTH DAY—Morning Session.

The convention was called to order at 9 o'clock, with President Gompers in the chair.

Delegate Moffitt moved that the roll call be dispensed with. Defeated.

Roll call ordered.

Absent—Sidener, Murphy, Tobin, Kline, Lloyd, Leslie, Yarnell, Tracy, Myers, Hughes, Larger, Crouchley, O'Brien, McCabe, Keneshan, Keefe, Ratchford, Lewis, Fox, Valentine, Black, Lynch, Miller, Spencer Dillman, Mahon, Elderkin, Ross, Lennon, Chalfant, Koch, Prescott, Sullivan, Kidd, Lloyd, Crosby, Geraghty, Ludwig, Rogers, Tighe, McNeill, Bonbright, McGill, Jones, Welch, Sullivan, Murphy, Thompson, Schwartz, Conroy.

Delegate Klapetzky moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with. Adopted.

Delegate Klapetzky moved that the convention go into executive session immediately after the resolution in the hands of the Committee on Resolutions is disposed of. Adopted.

The Committee on Resolutions recommends Resolution No. 93 favorable. Adopted.

The convention went into executive session at 9:15 o'clock to hear the report of the Committee on Grievances.

The Committee on Grievances submitted the following report:

Recommends Resolution No. 23 favorably, with the following amendment:

RESOLVED, That the designation "merchant tailor" in these resolutions shall be construed to mean establishments where custom clothing is exclusively made to the measure and order of each individual customer, and shall not include any ready-made clothing manufacturers, nor any special order work made for such manufacturers. Adopted.

Recommends Resolution No. 42 favorably.

Delegate Walsh moved to concur in the report of the committee.

Delegate Whitaker was called to the chair.

President Gompers said he was opposed to such action as the committee recommends. He did not believe in convicting a man without giving him an opportunity to be heard.

Delegate Klapetzky said he had nothing against Organizer Sullivan personally. He was willing that the matter should be investigated.

Delegate O'Connell moved to amend that the matter be referred to the President for investigation, and if found to be as stated on the floor, the censure be carried out. Adopted.

The committee's recommendation, as amended, was adopted.

On Resolution No. 14, the committee recommend as follows:

In view of the fact that Resolution No. 79 calls for the formation of a joint executive board of both national unions to settle all differences in an amicable manner, we recommend that this resolution be referred to that conference board when formed, and suggest that this joint board be organized without delay. Adopted.

In the case of Brockhurst vs. Tile Layers Union No. 6601, of New York, we find that the matter has been reported on by the Committee on President's Report. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 134, recommend as follows:

Wheeling (West Virginia) central body is not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor; therefore, this body has no jurisdiction over it. In the Birmingham (Alabama) case, your committee reports favorably. Adopted.

On Resolution No. 66 recommends as follows:

Your committee sustains the position taken by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union, that they have jurisdiction over all persons having the cutting and sale of meats in any establishment.

Delegate Warner moved that the report of the committee be non-concurred in.

Delegate Call said the American Federation of Labor understood that all workers engaged in the meat business who handle a knife come under the jurisdiction of the National Association of Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen.

Delegate Warner withdrew the motion to non-concur.

Delegate McGuire moved that the report of the committee be concurred in. Adopted.

Delegate Murphy (Boston) desired to be recorded as voting "Nay."

The following was referred to the Grievance Committee for action:

Credentials were presented by Joseph Brickell, who was elected at a convention of Painters and Decorators, held at Cleveland, Ohio, during the present month. Mr. Brickell claimed to represent the so-called McKinley and Elliott factions. After giving the matter the most careful consideration, your committee reported favorably on the credentials of Delegate Sullivan, the representative of the organization recognized by the American Federation of Labor. But in the hope of effecting an amicable adjustment of existing differences between the so-called Elliott and McKinley factions, we would respectfully recommend that the trouble be referred to the Grievance Committee, with the view of restoring harmony and solidarity among Union Painters.

The Grievance Committee called the representatives of the two so-called factions before it and listened attentively to the statements from both sides. In accordance with the report of the Credential Committee, Delegate Sullivan was seated in this convention. The only matter referred to this committee by the convention was that the committee make an

effort to restore harmony among the union painters of this country.

We find it impossible to bring about an amicable adjustment of the existing differences among the painters.

Delegate Hirsh moved that the matter be referred to the painters and decorators affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Delegate Hofler said the convention should take a stand in this matter, and notify the two factions if they do not settle the affair by the next convention that the charter will be revoked by the American Federation of Labor.

Delegate Sullivan said that every recommendation of the American Federation of Labor has been carried out by the painters and decorators.

Delegate Garland said that there is more trouble between the painters and decorators than has ever existed between labor organizations in the history of the labor movement. This matter must be settled, and this continual fight stopped.

Delegate Bazeley said the officers of the two factions should resign and thereby settle the trouble.

Delegate Brennock said this dispute is a disturbing element, not only in the painters' organization but in every other organization.

Delegate Myers said that Mr. Elliott is an honest and upright man. In Baltimore the Elliott faction is recognized as a true trades union.

Delegate Fahey said in recognizing the McKinley faction the convention would establish a dangerous precedent. This matter has been before the convention three or four times and we should pay no attention to the complaints of the McKinley faction.

Delegate Sullivan stated that the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators would hold a convention the last of February or the first of March, looking to the adjustment of the trouble, and it was their intention to request the presence of a member of the Executive Council.

Delegate Moore said that if the painters and decorators were entitled to their charter from the American Federation of Labor, then this convention was compelled to support the position of the painters and decorators.

Delegate Glenn said that if we did not recognize the *bona fide* organization of painters and decorators we would be continually fighting with seceding organizations.

Delegate McGuire said that previous conventions had taken a stand on this matter in

favor of the painters and decorators affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The convention should endeavor to bring these factions together. Not to recognize either faction would be a disgrace to the labor movement.

Delegate Duncan said the cause of most of this trouble was brought about by the convention in receiving protests from seceding bodies.

Delegate Murphy (Boston) called for the previous question, which was sustained.

The motion, as amended, was carried by a vote of 31 to 13.

Delegate Dornell moved that an executive officer of the American Federation of Labor attend the meeting of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators to be held at Buffalo in February or March, 1898.

Delegate Sullivan extended an invitation to the Executive Council to send a member to the convention.

Delegate Duncan moved to amend that the convention accept the invitation.

The previous question was called for and sustained.

Motion to amend carried.

The motion as amended was adopted.

On the application of the paper hangers for a charter, committee reported that they were unable to come to an agreement, and therefore referred the matter back to the convention for action.

Delegate Sullivan moved that the application be denied and the matter be referred to the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators.

Delegate Ludwig stated that the paper hangers were in no manner connected with the painters and decorators, and claimed that the paper hangers were dissatisfied with being affiliated with the painters. He said if a charter was granted, that in a year they would have an organization we would be proud of.

Delegate Kidd said that for the reason that paper hangers sometimes acted as painters, and painters sometimes acted as paper hangers, they should be in the same organization.

Delegate Moffitt wanted to know if any of the organizations affiliated with the Louisville central body were affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Delegate Brennock stated that there was an organization of paper hangers in Chicago, who worked piece-work, and that the American Federation of Labor should sit down on piece-work, and stated that their business could be better served by remaining with the painters.

Delegate Bazeley said he organized a paper hangers union, and that it was a different trade, and a charter should be granted.

Delegate Sullivan said that paper hanging and painting is one trade, and it is only in a few cities that paper hanging has become a specialty. The old style of decorating has gone out of existence, and plain paper hanging is now done. Half of the painters and decorators' membership must be paper hangers.

Previous question moved and adopted.

Motion adopted.

The following report was submitted on the protest entered against the credentials of Delegate Ludwig being received:

The committee has examined into the protest of Delegate Sidener against the seating of the delegate from the Louisville Central Labor Union, and find that the Central Labor Union had expelled the delegates of the American Agents' Association. It is on this point that the protest is made by Delegate Sidener.

The committee further find that when the American Agents' Association of Louisville withdraw the objectionable resolutions condemning the Central Labor Union, that the Association will again be entitled to representation.

Therefore, the protest is hardly sufficient to warrant the rejection of the credentials of Delegate Ludwig.

The committee finds that the differences existing among the musicians were the principal cause for complaint. But in this the committee has arranged an amicable and satisfactory settlement in securing the concurrence of both parties to the contest to amalgamate the two unions of musicians of Louisville.

In view of this the committee recommend that the delegate from the Louisville Central Labor Union be permanently seated.

Adopted.

On Resolution No. 53 the committee recommend that the subject-matter contained in this resolution be referred to the incoming Executive Council with the recommendation that they prevail upon the existing organizations of leather workers to form a general organization, the policy and character of which will harmonize the different unions of the leather trades.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THOMAS D. FITZGERALD, Chairman,
JOHN A. MOFFITT, Secretary,
JOHN L. HEDBERG,
B. A. LARGER,

Committee on Grievances.

Recommendation adopted.

The Committee on Grievances submitted the following additional report:

The difficulty existing between the Central Labor Union of Auburn, N. Y., and the local carpenters union, was considered at considerable length, the evidence submitted being very lengthy. Your committee are of the opinion that union men should be disciplined whenever found to violate union rules. But we believe that cases such as the one in point is

not a subject for the consideration of this convention, and should be settled by the local unions in the different localities where they may arise.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN A. MOFFITT,
P. J. GERAGHTY,
JOHN L. HEDBERG,
B. A. LARGER,

Committee.

Adopted.

Delegate Casey was called to the chair.

Delegate Hirsh moved that we now go into open session.

Delegate Furuseth said there was a matter that he wanted unanimous consent to introduce. Consent was granted.

Delegate Furuseth then moved that the Executive Council be instructed to renew their efforts for the release of E. W. Clark, now in prison at Thomason, Me.

Delegate Duncan stated that Clark was an old man now, and hoped that renewed efforts would result in his being released.

An amendment was made that the executive officers of the national organizations be requested to assist the Executive Council. Adopted as amended.

Delegate O'Sullivan moved that we now go into open session, and that the Secretary be given discretionary power as to what should be given out for publication.

Delegate Priesterbach requested the unanimous consent to bring a matter before the convention. He stated that he had received a communication and telegrams, which he submitted to the convention, showing that the brewery firm which had just submitted to arbitration, having as arbitrator, President Gompers, have violated their agreement.

Delegate Priesterbach moved that the company be communicated with and requested to abide by the agreement entered into. Adopted.

On motion the convention took up the election of Fraternal Delegate to Canada.

Delegate Bennett nominated Delegate O'Sullivan (declined).

Delegate Hirsh nominated Delegate Kidd.

Delegate Moore nominated Delegate Yarnell.

Delegate Askew seconded the nomination of Delegate Kidd.

Delegates Krett and Kleinheinz seconded the nomination of Delegate Yarnell.

Delegate Yarnell withdrew his name.

Delegate Doyle moved that Delegate Kidd be elected unanimously. Adopted.

Delegate Curran moved that we proceed to the election of alternate delegates. Adopted.

Delegates O'Sullivan, Yarnell, Warner, Glenn, Mahoney, Ratchford (Delegate Moore stated that he was instructed by Delegate Ratchford to decline all nominations tendered him), Myers (Baltimore), Hoffer, Hirsh, Klapetzky, and Moore were nominated, and on receiving the declination of all, it was moved that the entire matter be referred to the Executive Council. Adopted.

Moved by Delegate Doyle that a vote of thanks be extended to organized labor and the public generally for the pleasant entertainment extended to the delegates, and to the press of the city and those who had representatives present during the convention. Adopted.

At 12:05 o'clock the convention adjourned *sine die*.

FRANK MORRISON,

Secretary American Federation of Labor.

